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Ford workers' all-out strike as talks fail

Action will hit car plants in Europe

By Roland Ridd and Daniel Ward

Ford's 32,500 manual workers were yesterday called out on an indefinite strike from Monday after talks between the company and union leaders broke down after only 15 minutes.

The moves came in the wake of the workers' rejection of a three-year pay and conditions package, and against the backdrop of a display of the new mood of shop-floor militancy.

Two thousand workers preempted the talks by taking industrial action at the Dagenham and Halewood plants even before they had begun.

Management, too, was showing signs of toughening its stance. In the markedly short meeting, the company warned workers that if the indefinite national strike goes

ahead the entire offer would immediately be withdrawn.

The action by the British workers will affect Ford's four main car plants in Belgium, West Germany and Spain within two weeks with a shortage of components from the company's UK factories, making it impossible for Ford to import additional cars to compensate for the vehicles lost through the strike.

First to grind to a halt will be the Saxxville plant in West Germany which builds Escorts and Orion. All its petrol engines are made at Bridgend.

Seven hundred workers were on strike at the Renault truck plant in Dunstable yesterday for the second time in a week. Union officials said they were not being allowed by the management to hold a secret ballot on a 6 per cent offer.

Ford workers on the picket line at Dagenham were yesterday in a militant mood. A shop steward said: "We will stay out as long as we have to, longer than in 1978 if necessary." The last big strike over wages at Ford lasted nine weeks.

The Dagenham plant has been flooded with printed news bulletins from the Socialist Workers Party, and a new Ford militant news release urging them to strike.

"Let's hit them where they will really feel it, in their pockets. Ford cannot afford a prolonged strike because their competitors will benefit. Be united and we will win", reported one leaflet.

It appears that the strike is not over wages but the length of the agreement and the radical changes in working practices. These would allow management to call on skilled workers to join the production line alongside semi-skilled employees.

Bombing suspect arrested

By Stewart Tisdall

A Sikh will appear before a London court today facing extradition to Canada for a bomb attack which killed two airline baggage handlers.

Inderjit Singh Rayat, working as an electrician for the Jaguar car company in Coventry, was arrested yesterday after a joint police surveillance operation involving Canadian officers and the West Midlands force.

The extradition warrant was issued on behalf of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and alleges he was in possession of explosives in Coventry in May and June 1985.

According to West Midlands police Mr Rayat, aged 35, is wanted by the Canadian police in connection with a bomb blast at Narita airport, Tokyo, in June 1985.

Mr Rayat, married with three children, was arrested after two traffic policemen flagged him down as he drove to work for a day shift from his home in Compton, Coventry.

Shares fall

Share prices fell sharply on fears of higher interest rates, the Ford strike decision and a broker's forecast of sharply higher base rates. Page 23

London link

Mr John Phelan, the chairman of the New York Stock Exchange, believes large US share traders could be avoiding restrictions by dealing in London. Page 23

Debts guard

A leading stockbroking service has demanded a deposit to guard against defaulters' debts. Family Money, pages 28-32

Foster blow

England's bowling strength has been severely depleted with the injury to Neil Foster as the team prepares for the Test series against New Zealand. Page 38

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Two-tunnel vision by Prime Minister



A smiling Mrs Thatcher on her visit down the tunnel yesterday. (Photograph: Chris Harris)

Ferry firms win earlier hearing for strike case

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Ferry crews remained on strike in ports all round Britain yesterday as shipowners claimed that the seamen's separate actions over local agreements were unlawful.

In the High Court, Mr Sam McCuskie, general secretary of the National Union of Seamen, was accused of abiding by the letter of undertakings he had given to call off the strike, but not the spirit.

Both P&O and Sealink, owners of ferries which are still strike-bound in all but a handful of ports, had gone back to the court to ask a judge to bring forward an application for sequestration of the union's assets from Tuesday to Monday. Mr Justice Michael Davies agreed.

Mr Mark Potter, QC, for Sealink, told the judge it appeared that the instructions for NUS members to return to work had been sent out but did not seem to have been effective in stopping the strike.

Mr Potter told the judge the strike had to be stopped quickly because of the damage it was causing.

If the court made a sequestration order on Monday, Sealink hoped it would bring "sense" to the union members at lower level who would appreciate the consequences their acts might have for the union.

Mr Potter said Sealink would complain about state-

chaos at ports. Photographs of the order read: "I instruct you immediately on receipt of this notice to advise all union members forthwith that the industrial action being carried out in support of the dismissed members of the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company has been called off."

The order read: "I instruct you immediately on receipt of this notice to advise all union members forthwith that the industrial action being carried out in support of the dismissed members of the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company has been called off."

Mr Patrick Elias, for the union, said the NUS position had not changed. It had no wish, no desire or intention to flout the order of the court.

The instructions had been

Thatcher excited by project

By a Staff Reporter

Mrs Thatcher yesterday spoke about the possibility of a second Channel tunnel being built.

She was visiting the site at Shakespeare, near Dover, where the first tunnel, due to come into service in 1993, is being bored.

It was her first visit to the site where drilling began over a month ago. The project is running about three months behind schedule, but the builders, Trans-Manche Link, believe this delay can be made up.

Wearing a safety helmet, wellingtons and special filters to help her breathe in case of an emergency, she travelled 40 metres under the sea to get to the tunnel face 173 metres into the Channel.

After an hour in the tunnel she said she was so excited by the scheme that she believed another Channel tunnel should be built. "By the time this one is completed in 1993, the business through it will be so great we will jolly well have to build another one."

"I am absolutely thrilled after seeing the work for myself. This tunnel project is something the whole of the UK is involved in and should be proud of. It is our future."

Drilling from the French side is expected to begin in March.

Cabinet decision hint by Stalker

By Andrew Morgan

Mr John Stalker last night suggested that the decision to stop his investigations into alleged "shoot-to-kill" policy by the RUC could have been taken at Cabinet level.

In his first public interview, the former Deputy Chief Constable of Greater Manchester said he believed a decision had been taken to delay or block his report, and that it would have been taken at a senior political level.

"It was a combination, I would think, of a number of people. The actual people who implemented it may not have been the people who ordered it."

Asked if he believed it would have gone as far as the Cabinet, Mr Stalker said: "I just don't know. I mean it's difficult to imagine how it could be any less than that."

Mr Stalker admitted in the interview on the Channel 4 programme *Dispatches* that he had not found written evidence of a shoot-to-kill policy.

But he said: "What I did get was a feeling that the adrenalin was flowing at such an extent that the feeling was 'Okay, dead or alive, we'll be protected to some extent."

We're fighting a war. We're soldiers in police uniform. It was a feeling of 'Let's do it to them before they do it to us'."

Mr Stalker had presented an interim report to Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, in September 1985. He was due to continue the following June but he was removed from the investigation and told he was the subject of a disciplinary inquiry.

Last night, Mr Stalker agreed that it would have been politically opportune for the RUC and the British and Irish governments to delay his report, as the RUC had decided to tackle head-on the marching season problems of Protestants striding through Catholic areas.

He elaborated on his struggle to obtain a tape-recording of an incident at a hay shed, just outside Lurgan, in which Michael Tighe, aged 17, who had no terrorist connections, was shot dead. "That tape was either going to completely exonerate the police and justify the war, or it was going to completely exonerate the police and justify the war."

Victims of Stalin back in favour

From Christopher Walker

In a move seen as a victory for the Kremlin's reform camp and a boost for Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet authorities have rehabilitated Nikolai Bukharin and Alexei Rykov, two of the most prominent victims of Stalin's notorious 1930s show trials.

Bukharin was an outspoken opponent of Stalin's brutal collectivization of agriculture and is now seen as the inspiration for some of Mr Gorbachev's economic reforms. He and Rykov, a former Prime Minister, were shot in 1938 as "enemies of the people."

Last night, Mr Gennady Gerasimov, the chief Kremlin spokesman, said a special commission of the ruling Politburo had approved a decision of the Soviet Supreme Court to exonerate the two men and 18 other people.

The move is the most dramatic in the Kremlin's promise to fill in "blank spots" in Soviet history. Soviet sources said it followed considerable heart-searching in the party.

Continued on page 22, col 8

Presidential hopefuls get knives out in Iowa

From Michael Bixton, Des Moines, Iowa

The campaign for the Iowa caucuses, rushing towards an exhausting and uncertain finish on Monday, has turned nasty as Democrat and Republican presidential candidates round on each other, assailing their records, their positions and their integrity.

Bitter feuding has broken out again between Vice-President George Bush and Senator Robert Dole, whose lead among the Republicans is dwindling as he flounders in new controversy over a former aide's financial dealings.

Their mutual hostility culminated in confrontation on the floor of the Senate on Thursday, when an angry Mr Dole demanded an apology from Mr Bush for his Iowa campaign manager's personal attack on him. Mr George Wiggall spoke in a campaign release of Mr Dole's "record of cynicism and history of mean-spiritedness."

On the Democratic side, the knives are out for Representative Richard Gephardt, the front-runner. Senator Paul Simon is accusing him of opportunism in leading the attack on Contra aid. Mr Simon protested that he himself was an "insistent voice" against aid from the start.

Harsh reality looms, page 5

Red-nose day raises millions for famine relief

By Alan Hamilton



Solomon may have told his lady love that her nose was like the tower of Lebanon that looketh towards Damascus, but the man in Covent Garden had grown tired of wearing his, and had hung it on his ear for relief.

The British, who are as self-conscious about their noses as they are about organized attempts at mass silliness, responded patchily yesterday to a nationwide call for the wearing of red plastic noses in aid of continuing famine in Africa. They were worn briefly on the floor of the Stock Exchange, until they got in the way of the shouting that is an essential part of options trading; they appeared furtively on Tube trains and buses.

They appeared briefly on the snouts of

revellers who had been up late the night before and whose eyes in consequence resembled the fishpools in Heshbon. They were not a pretty sight.

Leading citizens responded with varying degrees of enthusiasm to the call by the Comic Relief charity to be foolish in a good cause. The Duke of York, addressing a press conference at the Royal Aero Club to launch an award scheme for young fliers, produced a red nose from his pocket and wore it for several seconds.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, opening a coffee shop in his constituency of Bridgwater, Somerset, also sported a false nose, but being a faithful servant of his mistress it was, needless to say, a blue one, giving rise to speculation that this member of

Cabinet might be moonlighting as a blue comedian.

Britons, whose sense of humour is regarded in the darker banana-skin corners of the earth as subtle to the point of incomprehensibility, did not respond to yesterday's clarion call to public idiocy with universal enthusiasm. Mr Jack How, deputy headmaster of Northfleet Boys' School in Kent, forbade his charges to wear red noses yesterday, on the ground that it would make them "over-excited". To maintain their calm, he allowed them to wear casual clothes instead.

The Comic Relief charity said yesterday that it had ordered 3.8 million red plastic noses from factories in six countries, effectively cornering the world

Continued on page 22, col 3

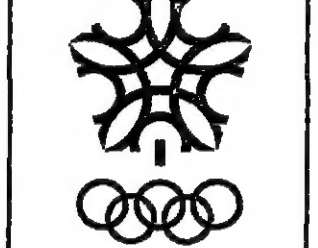
NEXT WEEK

In colour: the magic of Crufts



● Tuesday: A four-page supplement in full colour to mark next weekend's 92nd Crufts Dog Show in London, including a colour wall chart featuring more than 100 breeds and a full show guide.

In colour: the Olympic challenge



● Wednesday: With the XVth Winter Olympics starting in Calgary next weekend, a four-page colour supplement features the leading medal contenders, all the events, and a guide to the television coverage.

Portfolio

PLUS NEW Accumulator

● Every day: Portfolio Accumulator starts its second week with an extra £4,000 in the fund, taking it to £44,000. If neither the jackpot nor the £8,000 daily prize is claimed today, (Yesterday's winners, page 3).

● The Accumulator jackpot will be won by a reader with a number higher than the daily or weekly total.

Daily list, page 27
Weekly check, 29
Rules and how to play, 34

The King Size from Dunhill

Dunhill King Size Filter

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LOW TO MIDDLE TAR
Warning: MORE THAN 30,000 PEOPLE DIE EACH YEAR IN THE UK FROM LUNG CANCER
Health Departments' Chief Medical Officers

NEWS ROUNDUP

Professor and wife in train suicide

A former Cambridge professor and his wife were yesterday found dead in their bunks on the overnight Liveness-Euston express in an apparent suicide pact.

Professor Arthur Ramsay, aged 78, a leader in the field of comparative physiology, and his wife Helen were discovered when the Royal Highlander express drew into the London station.

British Transport Police said: "We believe death was caused by some sort of substance taken orally and a letter was found outlining their actions."

Professor Ramsay, an Honorary Fellow of Queens' College, Cambridge, was made an MBE in 1945 and became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1955. Dr Andy Cosh, Queens' College senior bursar, said: "He was something of an academic eccentric and highly intelligent with anything he turned his mind to. I learned at his feet when I was a student."

Professor Ramsay, who was a major in the Royal Artillery Coast and Anti-Aircraft Defence Experimental Establishment during the Second World War, retired in 1976 to Scotland. **Obituary, page 10**

Paper girl Teething trouble

A man appeared in court yesterday charged with abducting, imprisoning and intending to have unlawful sexual intercourse with a newspaper girl aged 14 last month.

Raymond Hewlett, aged 43, unemployed, of Woodside, Telford, Shropshire, was remanded in custody until Monday by magistrates in Northwich, Cheshire.

There was no application for bail.

Ilea no-strike plea

The Inner London Education Authority has urged the National Union of Teachers not to strike next week in protest against the authority's budget cut.

The one-day stoppage called for next Tuesday is seen as potentially embarrassing for the authority, which is trying to present a glowing image of the capital's education service in the wake of the Government decision to abolish the body.

Cost of a mother Action in prisons

The loss of a mother's services was valued at £25,000 yesterday by the Court of Appeal in the case of a girl aged 12 who was three when her mother was killed by a van.

In 1986 a judge awarded Kate Hall, of Grimsby, South Yorkshire, £3,000 for her injury and £47,000 for the loss of her mother's services.

Yesterday the Court of Appeal agreed with the driver that the awards were too high and awarded the girl a total of £39,609, reducing the £3,000 to £1,500 and the £47,000 to £25,000.

Toxteth's £10m fillip

A derelict site near Upper Parliament Street in Liverpool where the Toxteth riots broke out is to be transformed into a £10 million housing and business complex.

Mr David Trippier, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, announced yesterday that the Government is giving £2.2 million towards the scheme on a 20-acre site close to the city's Anglican cathedral.

Some 450 jobs will be created in the scheme to build flats for young people, a conference centre, a hostel and workshops for apprentices. The new buildings are to be called Liverpool Cathedral College after a medieval building on the same site.

Navy hero loses his bearings

A retired Navy hero who drove for a mile the wrong way along the M4 left a trail of damaged vehicles behind him.

When police caught up with Commander Robert Norman Everett, aged 74, they opened the door to find him looking slightly bewildered with a small dog sitting on his lap.

Magistrates at Newbury, Berkshire, were told that no one was injured but five cars were damaged as they swerved to avoid hitting Commander Everett's Ford Orion.

Mr John Hodge, for the prosecution, said Commander Everett, of Ham Common, Richmond, Surrey, had pulled into the M4 service area for petrol while heading towards Cheltenham.

"Unfortunately the commander lost his bearings. He decided to leave by the same way he came in."

Commander Everett, who was captured by the Germans in the last war, told the court: "I was slightly confused."

He was banned from driving for five years and fined £225.

Army faces terrorists as weapons race mounts

Protestants match IRA build-up

By Bob Rodwell and John Cooney

Both republican and "loyalist" terrorists in Northern Ireland are now seen to be engaged in an arms race with the Protestant paramilitaries displaying, for the first time, that they too have access to substantial supplies of heavy, modern, military weapons to match the recent arms build-up of the Provisional IRA.

Proof of the loyalists' new firepower was seen yesterday when the Royal Ulster Constabulary displayed weapons recovered in a big arms seizure on Thursday. The haul was linked yesterday, without qualification, to loyalist extremists by Mr Don Milliken, the RUC chief inspector who is leading the investigation.

One man was arrested when, in an outhouse behind bungalows in a sparsely populated countryside at Ballyvoan, two miles outside north Belfast, the security forces found a Soviet-made RPG-7 rocket launcher together with 25 armour-piercing

rocket grenades; 38 Czech-made Type 58P rifles, a variant of the Kalashnikov AK47; 15 9mm pistols, 100 military hand grenades and about 40,000 rounds of ammunition with 77 magazines.

The cache, understood to be linked in investigators' minds with the proscribed Ulster Volunteer Force rather than the larger and legal Ulster Defence Association, was the second time within a month that powerful military weapons of predominantly Warsaw Pact origin have been found in the hands of loyalist paramilitaries.

On January 8, 61 Kalashnikov rifles, 30 Browning pistols, 150 fragmentation grenades and about 11,000 rounds of ammunition were found when police stopped three cars being driven by loyalists, including a leading member of the UDA.

"One theory is that substantial supplies have been smuggled in and are being shared out between the various branches of armed Loyalist

extremism," a security source said yesterday. "It is a very worrying development that they are turning to modern high power weaponry like this."

He dismissed any suggestion that the Protestant caches are linked with the huge shipment of arms known to have been smuggled into the republic for the Provisional IRA in recent months and evidence of which was found in the big seizures made by the Garda at Malin Head in Co Donegal last week and, again, by the RUC on Wednesday when they stopped a refrigerated truck near Belfast as it neared the end of its journey.

Meanwhile, security chiefs on both sides of the Irish border are hailing as a big success the capture of a succession of illegally imported cargoes of arms that have averted bloodbaths between the IRA and Protestant paramilitaries on the streets of Northern Ireland.

Alongside such a sectarian

confrontation the British Army would have faced losing control over the South Armagh frontier zone and other strategically vital stretches.

The IRA was on the point of enhancing its military capability to unprecedented levels which would have enabled it to shoot down British Army helicopters with the powerful Sam 7 ground-to-air missiles.

The arms finds have confirmed the pre-Christmas warning from Sir John Hermon, the Royal Ulster Constabulary chief constable, that the IRA planned to increase the level of violence this year.

Republican sources suggest that the IRA was planning to distribute weapons throughout Roman Catholic working-class areas in Belfast and Londonderry for "defence" purposes against loyalist paramilitaries and the British Army.

Security sources think that the loyalist arms may have come from Europe through Scotland.

Banks must pay NUM £1.4m over funds move

By Roland Radd

The National Union of Mineworkers, which sued its president for moving its funds outside the country during the year long 1984-85 strike, yesterday won a £1.4 million settlement towards the cost of recovering its £8.5 million funds that were sent abroad.

The banks which acted on behalf of Mr Arthur Scargill during the pit strike will have to pay the bill. The money was sent abroad to avoid sequestration when the union was in contempt of court.

The action was originally taken by miners who worked through the strike and who are now members of the break-away Union of Democratic Mineworkers.

They sought damages against NUM officers, including Mr Scargill, who were responsible for transferring the NUM funds abroad, and against the banks which enabled the transfers to take place.

The High Court action was launched on behalf of the NUM in September 1985 by the union's court-appointed receiver, Mr Michael Arnold, and later taken over by the union's trustees.

Mr Charles Gray, QC, for the three Labour MPs who are the present trustees of NUM funds, said in court yesterday that, as a result of three settlements, the union would recover £1.4 million from the banks, together with valuable properties, including the proposed new NUM headquarters in Sheffield.

Mr Scargill said yesterday: "The decision by the plaintiffs to abandon any action and bring any claims for damages against Mr Heathfield, Mr McGahey or myself is a complete vindication of our position, both during and since the miners' dispute of 1984-85."

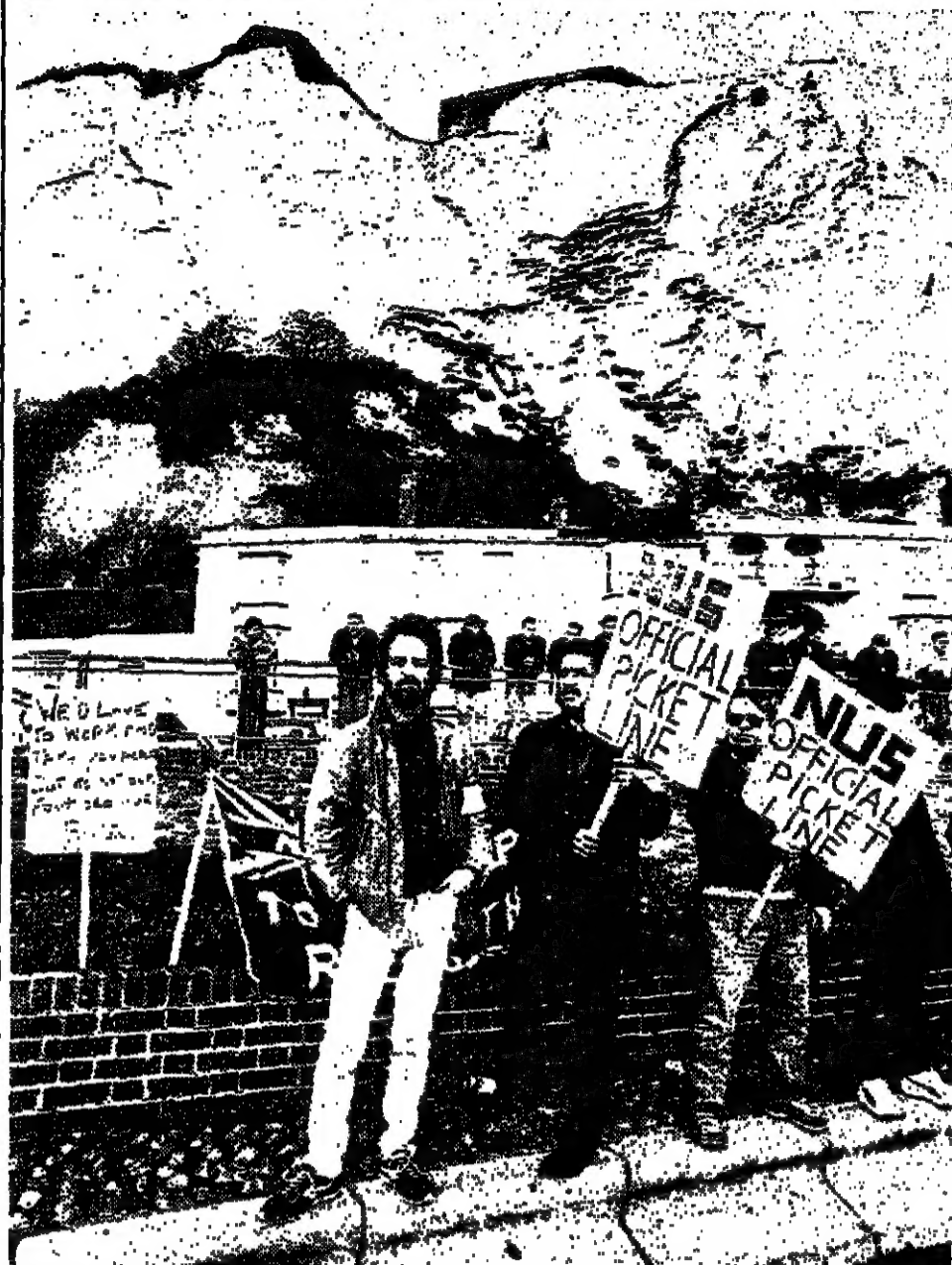
The trustees - Mr John Cummings, MP for Eastington, Co Durham; Mr Alexander Gaddie, MP for Midlothian; and Mr Michael Welsh, MP for Doncaster North - had been advised that it was in the interest of the union's funds not to pursue the small amount of legally recoverable damages still outstanding against its officers.

The decision not to press for damages against Mr Scargill was criticized by Mr Roy Lyne, president of the UDM. "The trustees are abandoning their duties by not pursuing the guilty NUM men who should be sued", he said.

Mr Gray said the £1.4 million represented "a very substantial proportion of the total receivership and sequestration costs", much of which were incurred in unscrambling transfers and recovering assets sent abroad in an unsuccessful attempt to make them immune from seizure by the courts.

● Nacods, the pit deputies' union, today starts an overtime ban in protest at British Coal's pay offer. The ban could prevent miners working at many pits on Monday.

Ferries few and far between



The seamen's picket line yesterday at Dover Eastern Docks (Photograph: Chris Turvey).

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Ferry services at most British ports were still disrupted last night because of action by members of the National Union of Seamen.

Felixstowe, Hull, Middlesbrough, Dover, Harwich, Liverpool, Cairnryan, Larne and Belfast were affected.

P & O reported that its ferries were sailing only from Aberdeen and Portsmouth. Sealink said its only service working normally was from Fishguard, its services from Dover, Harwich, Folkestone, Holyhead and Stranraer were all stopped, but foreign-crewed vessels were still sailing.

There are to be mass meetings of crews at many of the ports tomorrow, including one involving employees of the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company.

The queues of freight lorries at Dover waiting for ferries to cross the Channel varied during the day. At one stage it was estimated there were more than 900 and there was similar congestion on the French side.

Police again used the M20 as a lorry park, allowing drivers into the dock area only as space became available. Dover, the country's busiest ferry port, was again working at about one-third capacity with French ships still providing services.

All ferries between Britain and Northern Ireland were cancelled again with crews of the three main operators - P & O European Ferries, Sealink and Belfast Ferries - refusing to sail in spite of court injunctions.

● A chief officer on a ferry has

been fined £1,000 with £500 costs for getting too close to another vessel.

Louis Belcourt, in charge of the Sealink ferry St Asenik carrying more than 300 passengers, had denied failing to keep well clear of the Panamanian-registered car transporter ship Sirius Highway.

Both charges were brought against Belcourt, 42, aged of Chatham Road, Folkestone, Kent, by the Department of Transport.

● A cross Channel ferry was undergoing emergency repairs yesterday after a stern door fell off as it was about to set sail from Portsmouth.

A weld in a hinge on the Viking Ventures, owned by P & O European Ferries, fractured as the doors were being closed, causing the upper part of the door to break.

Westminster protest

Nurses lobby MPs over pay

By Jill Sherman Social Services Correspondent

Four hundred nurses belonging to the National Union of Public Employees travelled from the north of England yesterday to support their union leaders as they pressed the Nurses' Pay Review Body for a 20 per cent pay rise.

The nurses later lobbied their MPs at Westminster.

The review body, expected to make recommendations in April, was also hearing evidence from the Royal College of Midwives and the Health Visitors' Association.

Mr Bob Jones, Nupe national officer, and other Nupe nurse members, told the review body, chaired by Sir James Clesminson, that nurses were poorly paid even compared to other equally skilled workers in the health service.

A study of comparable wages commissioned by the union show that NHS nurses, 90 per cent of whom are female, earn less than male workers with similar skills.

Nupez argues that a staff nurse on £7,300 should get the same as an NHS electrician who now gets £11,000 more.

Similarly a state enrolled nurse earns £2,000 less than a technical officer in an NHS architect department and a theatre nurse earns £1,000 less than a computer staff manager.

"We estimate that nurses lose out on over £500 million through pay discrimination", Nupez said. It declined to comment on the details of its constructive.

● Nurses working at Broadmoor top security mental hospital are preparing to take industrial action over extra location allowances.

The 400 nurses working at the Berkshire hospital claim that the hospital is facing serious recruitment difficulties because nurses cannot afford to live in the area. They have decided to hold a ballot on whether to take industrial action, which could include strikes.

At the moment nurses who work in special hospitals with mentally ill or dangerous patients are paid an extra £1,600 a year. In addition Broadmoor

nurses are paid an Outer London Location Allowance of £149 a year.

"This is totally unrealistic. With house prices rocketing in this 'yuppie' belt, new staff just cannot afford to live there", Mr Peter Rushworth, deputy general secretary of the Prison Officers' Association, said.

The nurses, who are Civil Servants and are employed by the Department of Health and Social Security have yet to put a figure on their claim for higher allowances.

● Savings made from putting ancillary services out to competitive tender in Scotland will be kept by health boards and ploughed back into patient services, Mr Michael Forsythe, Under-Secretary of State for Scotland, assured nurses.

At a meeting with leaders from the Scottish board of the Royal College of Nurses, Mr Forsythe guaranteed that boards could keep money raised from the exercise.

Immigrant delays admitted

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Home Office admitted yesterday that there were serious delays in dealing with immigration cases and said it would be some time before the backlog was cleared.

Evidence of hardship being suffered by applicants came from the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants. It said: "We understand that the Home Office is getting round to opening letters it received at the beginning of November."

The council said it was common for people to have cases waiting 18 months. Delays were particularly long for

people wishing to stay in Britain after marriage.

Welfare workers complain of frustration with telephone calls. The main number of the Immigration Department at Lunar House, Croydon, is usually engaged, they say, and even if they get through the stock answer is: "Your case is under consideration, do not call us, we will call you. There are many people who have applied before you."

The welfare workers blame staff shortages and bad management at the Home Office. They say there was a

vast increase in citizenship applications with the ending on December 31 of the automatic right of certain people to become citizens. At one stage there were 100,000 unopened letters.

The Home Office said yesterday that changes in the immigration rules which came into force at the beginning of this week should cut administrative work.

The rule change provides visitors to Britain with a standard six months in most straightforward cases, eliminating the need to renew after shorter periods.

Eagles dive on hang-gliding Britons

By Ronald Fax

The ambition of every hang-glider pilot is to emulate the birds, but the British team defending its world champion title in Australia is succeeding beyond the dreams of Icarus. Two pilots making lazy circles in the sky above Victoria have been mistaken for birds and attacked by territorially minded eagles.

Mr Lea Hull, from Buxton, Derbyshire, was flying his glider from Marnagee Lookout when he was swooped on by a furious eagle which tore the fabric of his wing and ripped away the elastic holding one of his wing battens. He landed safely.

Three days later Mr Tony Hughes, from Lockeridge, Wiltshire, was attacked in his hang glider by two wedged-

tailed eagles. One angry bird made a 5 in rip in one wing and the second gorged an 8 in by 10 in hole in the other wing. He also landed safely and a new wing was flown out to him from Britain.

The British pilots believe that their bright red hang gliders may be having the same effect on the eagles as it might have on birds. Otherwise they are mystified by the eagles' aggression being reserved for the British team, which is facing intense competition defending its title.

Mr John Peadar, of Brighton, East Sussex, the world and European hang-gliding champion and captain of the British team, reports that conditions in Victoria are quite unlike anything in Britain. The ground heat seeding the

powerful thermals is so great that it recently buckled the local railway line.

The British team is also reported to be having problems on the ground. While heavily sponsored American and Australian pilots rely on sleek fleets of support vehicles, the British flyers, who are largely self-financed, make do with a collection of old bangers that wheeze and break down in the desert heat. Despite all the handicaps, Britain still remains favourite to retain the title.

An official of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said of the eagles' behaviour: "It is not really bad but quite natural. They are simply defending their territory against a much bigger bird they think is trying to move in."

Job laws to heal rift over Stalker

By Richard Ford

Tough new employment discrimination laws for Northern Ireland will be introduced by a major debate in Parliament as ministers attempt to repair the rift in relations caused by the controversy over the Stalker-Sampson inquiry. The timing of the new proposals, and the way the legislation is to be introduced, were being seen at Westminster last night as an effort by the Government to offer a sop to both republicans and Unionists.

The new laws, which will be unveiled next week, are seen as an attempt by the Government to repair the rift in relations caused by the controversy over the Stalker-Sampson inquiry. The timing of the new proposals, and the way the legislation is to be introduced, were being seen at Westminster last night as an effort by the Government to offer a sop to both republicans and Unionists.

Under the Government proposals, any company employing more than 25 people will have to monitor the religion of their employees, and all public and private companies will have a statutory duty to prove that they offer equality of opportunity in recruitment and promotion.

Ministers are to bring their proposals to make job discrimination a criminal offence to the Commons in the form of primary legislation, instead of the Order in Council method normally used for passing laws relating to the province.

The Order in Council procedure, which allows only a minority of members in the Commons and often occurs late at night with few MPs present, has been under strong criticism from Unionists, particularly those favouring full integration with the UK.

Yesterday they welcomed the apparent concession by Ministers, saying it would allow proper examination of the plan to stiffen laws against employment discrimination.

The Rev Martin Smyth, Official Unionist MP for Belfast South, said: "I hope this shows they have recognized the force of our arguments that they are not getting proper scrutiny of legislation by using the Order in Council method."

Mr Peter Viggers, Under Secretary of State at the Northern Ireland Office, denied that the Government had changed its timetable for the new legislation. He said: "We do not accept that it is fair or reasonable that unemployment among Catholics should be two and a half times the level of unemployment among Protestants."

Press in D Notice protest

By Michael Evans

A government attempt to reassure the press and media over its attitude towards issues of national security backfired yesterday after a vote of no confidence from members of the D Notice Committee.

The Government had promised its continued support for the D Notice system under which the press and media can seek advice over the publication or broadcasting of subjects which may prejudice national security.

In a letter to the press side of the committee, Sir Clive Whitmore, permanent under-secretary at the Ministry of Defence, made clear the Government's position that D Notices had nothing to do with loyalty by members and former members of the security services.

The response from Sir Clive was prompted by the dispute over the Attorney General's injunction to the BBC Radio 4 programme *My Country Right or Wrong*.

The injunction was taken out even though the BBC had consulted the secretary of the D Notice Committee.

Mr Ramsden, in a reply to Sir Clive said: "We cannot accept that the duty of confidentiality should become a government licence to prevent the publication of material which complies with the D Notices."

He said the continued operation of the D Notice system might not be possible if the Government persisted in taking court action against those it believed to be in breach of the duty of confidentiality.

The view of all the journalists at a meeting this week was that if the Government took any more legal action against the press or media, the D Notice voluntary system would collapse.

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مكتبة الامم

Computer wizardry that makes pop singers redundant

By David Sinclair and Andrew Billen

Perhaps the group should have been called Frankenstein Goes To Hollywood, judging by revelations in the legal action brought against the singer Holly Johnson by his record company, ZTT. For during the course of the three-week hearing, a picture has emerged of a band whose music was artificially brewed to life under strictly controlled studio conditions, by the wizardry of the producer Trevor Horn.

None of the group's musicians had played their instruments on the recording sessions of *Relax* and *Two Tribes* — both of which sold millions.

The High Court was also told that Holly Johnson's "inert" singing could be "brought into line" only by the miracle of computer technology.

The case has come to symbolize the increasingly ambiguous relationship between modern recording artists and high technology.

Advanced equipment was created to serve the musicians' needs but now it is beginning to render some of them redundant — except as fashion accessories miming as the record plays.

The sight of the 74-year-old High Court judge making a bemused inspection of the facilities at Trevor Horn's hi-tech recording studio, Sarm West, suggests a need for a reconsideration of the role of such equipment in the creative process.

It is nothing new for pop stars not to play on their own records. The Monkees, the Sweet, Mud, and the Bay City Rollers all hired session musicians to play on their early

Judgement was reserved yesterday in the case brought by Zang Tumb Tumb Records and the music publishers Perfect Songs against Holly Johnson, the lead singer of Frankie Goes to Hollywood.

Both are trying to hold Mr Johnson to agreements signed in September 1983. Mr Johnson, aged 27, who wants to start a solo career with MCA Records, is countering with more than £400,000.

Yesterday, Mr Andrew Bateson, QC, for ZTT, told the court: "If Mr Johnson wins he will have fallen from the dote queue into hundreds of thousands of poems almost exclusively through the efforts of Trevor Horn and ZTT."

Asked if the revelations during the hearing that his voice needed to be enhanced harmed his reputation, Mr Johnson said: "I know exactly what you mean but I've been instructed not to say anything. But, yes, I was as a singer before ZTT and still am."

recordings, but all subsequently improved enough to do it for themselves. In this respect Frankie Goes To Hollywood was no different.

But the Frankies were the first and most successful of these "manufactured" groups to start operating in the brave new world of eighties technology.

It is a world where a technician with the aid of a Synclavier computer synthesizer can take the sound of Holly Johnson blowing his nose, clapping his hands and whistling for his dog, and process these noises to produce an odd-sounding but plausible orchestration of Beethoven's Fifth symphony.

Thus while managers and producers since time immemorial have claimed to have "made" their artists' careers, Trevor Horn can argue with more justification than most to have "made" the music of Frankie Goes To Hollywood.

But if Holly Johnson's singing was nothing more than a

convenient tonal source from which Horn was able to build perfect pop songs, why is he so keen to keep the singer on his label?

As Horn himself testified: "I could never have done those records in isolation. There was no actual playing by the band on either record [*Relax* and *Two Tribes*] but all the music was by the band [ie. written by the band] and the whole feeling came from the band."

It was also the band's, and in particular Holly Johnson's, young, outrageously camp image that sold those records to a sensation-hungry youth market.

As is always the case with technological innovation, it will take a while for the dust to settle. Practically all the instrumentation on Stevie Wonder's last album was generated by Synclavier, and other prominent users of the computer synthesizers include Sting and Peter Gabriel. Yet nobody accuses those artists of sitting back and letting machines produce their music.

Tiny bear with a great future



This cub will grow into a 6 ft, 500 lb American black bear, thanks to the care of Mr Raymond Jameson, a Cumbrian farmer who has hand-reared dozens of lion and puma cubs over the past 20 years and is feeding Rupert, which was at risk from attack by its father in a zoo, on Friesian milk. He keeps the cub warm on top of his stove (Photograph: Ros Drinkwater).

MPs back rear seat belts for children

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

MPs of all parties gave their backing yesterday for a Bill which would require children under the age of 14 to wear rear seat belts in cars.

Drivers who let children ride in the back of their cars without wearing seat belts would face a fine of £100.

Initially 50 children a year would be saved from death or serious injury if the wearing of seat belts becomes mandatory, rising to 300 a year as more cars are fitted with rear belts.

The future of Mr Stephen Day's private member's Bill is

not clear. Supporters believe the brief Bill could pass speedily through the committee to the Lords but there are fears it may be talked out to defeat Mr David Alton's abortion Bill.

Mr Peter Bottomley, Minister for Roads and Traffic and a committed supporter of child seat restraints, said: "The Government is very interested in the way public opinion and that of MPs has moved on this issue."

The minister said that unrestrained children in the rear

of cars were three times more likely to be injured than if they wore the correct seat belt.

Mr Mike Read, director of road safety at the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, said after the Bill's unopposed second reading: "It has got this far and we have got to put pressure on MPs to get it through Parliament."

During the Commons debate, Mr George Robertson, Labour MP for Hamilton, a member of the Seat Belt Survivors Club after a car crash, said about 1,000 child-

ren were killed or seriously injured each year in car accidents.

Sales of child restraints have jumped to more than a million annually in the past two years.

According to the latest survey, only 37 per cent of children wear seat belts. However only half the babies are restrained in the rear seat and fewer than one in eight children between the age of 10 and 13 wear rear belts.

Parliament, page 4

'Risk to free' sex case man

A judge yesterday admitted taking a "risky" decision in freeing a sex attacker.

David Lilley, aged 43, who once served seven years in prison for attempted rape, was placed on three years' probation for abducting a woman he intended to rape.

Mr Justice Rose's decision at the Central Criminal Court came as an MP challenged the Government over what he believes is the lenient attitude of courts to men accused of sex crimes.

Mr Terry Dicks, Conservative member for Hayes and Harlington, called for magistrates in Bristol to be dismissed for allowing a man accused of rape out on bail two days before he attacked again.

Mr Justice Rose, sentencing Lilley, said: "I am going to take a risk. Ultimately I have to consider not what is in your interest but what is in the interest of the public."

The judge added: "I recognize that risk and I do not shrink from it. You must recognize that, whatever the circumstances, if you ever stand in the dock again charged with any sort of sexual offence you will, in all probability, go away for tens of years."

The judge said the case suggested that any woman near Lilley was at risk.

Lilley, of Bassett Close, Frimley, Surrey, faced up to 14 years in jail after admitting the attack on a woman soldier, aged 21, in September.

The court heard he pulled her into bushes and was only stopped from raping her by four passing soldiers. Mr Alaric Dalziel, for the defence, said Lilley's fiancée was still prepared to marry him and he had become a "born-again" Christian while in jail.

Mother's first

Miss Debbie Leonard, aged 22, of Drighlington, West Yorkshire, yesterday became the world's first heart and lung transplant patient to become a mother. She gave birth to a son, Jonathan, at Hillingdon Hospital, west London.

How Tube staff overlooked hydrant

By Rodney Cowton and Tony Dawe

In a desperate search for a hydrant from which to attack the escalator fire at King's Cross Underground station, which killed 31 people, staff overlooked one less than 100 yards from the blaze.

Leading Railman Philip Brickell, who had been on duty as a ticket collector at the top of the Piccadilly line escalators, admitted that he had forgotten what the Underground fire hydrants looked like.

He also disclosed that London Underground discourages its staff from using the word "fire" because it may cause panic, and prefers to use "smoulder".

Mr Brickell, who was the first Underground employee to be told of the fire, described how he went to the foot of the Piccadilly line escalators.

While he was there a fireman, Sub Officer Roger Bell, came running down one of the escalators. Cross-examined by Mr Charles Pugh, representing the bereaved and the injured,

Mr Brickell said that Sub Officer Bell was obviously desperate to find a fire hydrant.

Asked if he had any idea where there was a hydrant, he replied: "Not really, but I wanted to be helpful."

He took Sub Officer Bell around the Piccadilly line platforms looking for a hydrant, without finding one.

He was shown a plan of the



Mr Brickell: "I forgot what a fire hydrant looked like."

station, which indicated that there was a hydrant in a cross passage between the Piccadilly line platforms. Mr Pugh said: "The hydrant is within 100 yards of the escalator, isn't it?"

"Yes", Mr Brickell said. He said that all he had found was a box with sand in it. Asked if he would recognize a hydrant, he said he had forgotten what a London Regional Transport hydrant looked like.

Meanwhile Sub Officer Bell had moved away looking for a hydrant, and Mr Brickell was told by colleagues that there was a hydrant on the Victoria Line platforms.

He admitted to Mr Pugh that he did not feel that in any proper sense he was prepared to deal with a fire. He had never used fire extinguisher equipment.

Earlier Mr Brickell was cross-examined by Mr John Drinkwater, QC, about a conversation with Station Inspector Christopher Hayes, who had appeared at the foot

of the Piccadilly escalator and been heard to say: "There is a fire."

Mr John Trayner, a fireman employed by London Underground, told the inquiry how he fitted a bracket and two 100ft lengths of hose within yards of the top of the escalator which caught fire.

Mr Trayner, aged 22, said he carried out the job about two weeks before the fire but had to go behind a boarding in the booking hall to do it.

The inquiry has been told that because of the boarding the hoses and a hydrant near by were "invisible and inaccessible" to firemen.

A clue that the one unidentified victim among the 31 people who died may have been a vagrant emerged.

Two witnesses who passed through the station shortly before the fire began reported seeing a figure lying in a corner of the booking hall.

The inquiry continues on Monday.

Mother in despair strangled children

A suicidal mother strangled her two children after making a plea for help on a live television programme.

Susan March, aged 26, telephoned *Lifeline* to talk about her anguish over a broken romance. Her anonymous call was cut short when her parents recognized her voice and picked up the extension phone at their home.

Minutes later, police believe, she swallowed a handful of pills and a bottle of rum before strangling her children Mandy, aged four, and David, two, with her dressing gown cord as they slept.

March, of Osea Way, Chelmsford, Essex, was yesterday ordered to be detained indefinitely in a secure hospital unit after she admitted manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

The prosecution at Chelmsford Crown Court accepted

pleas of not guilty to murder. Mr Laurence Marshall, for March, said she intended to take her own life as well. But the drink and drugs only made her sleep — and her actions were not discovered until the following morning.

A consultant psychiatrist told the court March was suffering from a chronic depressive illness.

After the hearing, Mrs March, who found her grandchild, said her daughter had feared that social workers would take them away.

"She was suffering from depression and they virtually ordered her to snap out of it. She was told she had six months to prove herself capable, mother otherwise the children would be adopted and she would never see them again. It preyed on her mind. She couldn't live with her dread anymore."

Teenage boy raped by man with Aids

A married father of two who was told he was infected with the Aids virus later sexually assaulted a teenage boy.

Judge Francis Allen, who jailed Lance Jackson for eight years for burglary without consent, told him: "I have to sentence you for the rape of a young man. You committed the offence at a time when you knew you had Aids and this subjected him to the horrendous risk of being infected."

The judge told Northampton Crown Court that the victim, aged 18 but with a mental age of 14, had shown no signs of developing the virus but it could be some months before he and his family would be relieved of the fear.

Jackson, aged 28, of Kelvin Avenue, Bedford, pleaded guilty to the offence.

The teenager later told police: "I didn't tell anybody

about the incident because I was too frightened."

Jackson was questioned by police after the teenager was found in tears several days after the assault. He denied at first that anything had taken place but later admitted that there had been "horseplay" and told the officers: "I have Aids. I have the antibodies of the disease within my system."

Medical checks disclosed that he had been told in 1986 that he was infected, after he had told his family doctor that he had had sexual relations with a homosexual he suspected was a carrier of the virus. Jackson was told that he should refrain from sexual relations.

The court was told that Jackson had been discharged from the Army in 1979 for indecency with another soldier.

Italian quest to prove authenticity of a Tiepolo

SALEROOM

By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

Mr Bob Atkins, the London businessman convinced he owns an original painting by Giambattista Tiepolo, is continuing his mission to prove its authenticity.

If the painting is proved to be an original it could fetch as much as £10 million on the open market.

Next week Mr Atkins will fly Professor George Knox of the University of British Columbia, the world expert on Tiepolo, to Udine in Italy, in an attempt to find out if a picture there is a copy. Mr Atkins will also oversee tests on the paint from his painting by members of the Hamilton-

Kerr Institute in Cambridge-shire.

The 15 ft allegorical painting depicting Virtue and Nobility has been the subject of some controversy since Mr Atkins made his first claim to its authenticity two weeks ago.

Exported from Italy in 1976 as a painting of little worth, the theory is that Mr Atkins's painting was swapped with a copy of the same subject during the 1920s by its then-

owner, Count Caiselli of Udine.

At the time, the count was caught attempting to export a painting by Tiepolo. He claimed the painting was a copy but he was convicted and the painting was confiscated. It was sent to Udine where it hangs today. Mr Atkins hopes to prove that his is the original.

In Udine, Mr Atkins and Professor Knox will seek

information on research understood to have been done on the painting in recent weeks. They will also talk to the elderly Countess Caiselli.

Mr Atkins is to fly Antonio Larrazin, the restorer who worked on the Udine painting in the 1960s, over to Britain to see his painting.

Mr Herbert Lank, the restorer, and Mrs Karen Green of the Hamilton-Kerr Institute, will take samples from the painting, hanging in Painswick House, Gloucestershire.

● An intensive week of auctioning the third phase of the huge Estelle Doheny

collection came to a successful conclusion for Christie's in California on Thursday evening, bringing the total sale to £3.3 million.

High prices for the last day included \$74,800 (£42,500) for a sixteenth century Brussels silk and wool tapestry which fetched twice its estimate.

● Christie's had some run-away prices at its routine Old Master sale yesterday. A painting by the eighteenth century artist Pieter Castels III, tripled its estimate, at £63,800. A still life of fruit in a basket in the manner of Joris van Son did likewise, selling at £26,400. Both were bought anonymously.

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator £4,000 for world traveller

A recently retired manager for Shell Oil won £4,000 yesterday in the Portfolio Gold competition.

Mr Eric Edwards, aged 55, returned only last year from Qatar where he managed Shell's Middle East operations. Ever since, he has been a Portfolio player.

Mr Edwards, of Llanbedr-Dyffryn-Clwyd, near Ruthin, Clwyd, in north Wales, said the money could not have come at a better time. "My house needs to be refurbished because I have been away for 30 years stationed in various parts of the world."

"My wife and I are now in the process of updating the house, and the Portfolio win was certainly good news."

Mr Harry Harnett, who also won £4,000 yesterday, plans to invest in British equities. "The British economy is doing well right now so it seems like a good time to invest", Mr Harnett, aged 62, a retired accountant, from Newmans Court, Farnham, Surrey, said.

Mr Harnett has three sons and four grandchildren.



Mr Harnett, who plans to invest in the economy.

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A member of the Trafalgar House Group

Hurd calls for a return to shared social values

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

Benefits reaped from economic success would be at risk unless during the rest of the century the dangerous unravelling of social cohesion was halted, Mr Douglas Hurd said last night.

The Home Secretary said ministers must take a lead in encouraging the return of a society underpinned by a greater shared values as the social cohesion of the country was in need of repair.

In a speech designed to rebut the criticism that Thatcherism has been exclusively concerned with achieving economic recovery and efficiency at the expense of social progress, he referred to the decline in standards and the failings of parents, teachers and church leaders to exert their influence.

He singled out for criticism parents and teachers in the shires where he said disturbances were frequently caused by affluent white drunken youths who had jobs.

There was no question of these people being deprived, or the unemployed victims of discrimination or something called Thatcherism.

While welcoming interventions from church leaders on political and social affairs, Mr Hurd was scathing about the matters they chose to comment on.

He said politicians had a right to respond to the "presence or absence of the churches and on their sometimes bizarre choice of priorities for discussion."

"It is not a political but the individual building of a foundation for individual behaviour and values which desperately needs preaching today."

The Home Secretary said that now that the heartbeat of the enterprise economy was firm, social cohesion needed to be created.

The Government did not believe that the accumulation of private wealth was the final aim of policy but wanted to equip people to use and respect the freedom being given to them by government

measures reducing state interference in their lives.

"The fruits of economic success could turn sour unless we can bring back greater social cohesion to our country," Mr Hurd said in a speech at Tamworth, Staffordshire, celebrating the bicentennial of the birth of Sir Robert Peel.

Mr Hurd said Peel would have been surprised that the rise in the standard of living had been accompanied by a decline in religion, discipline, and respect for law.

No one could be content with the centre of Britain's great cities which were unattractive to employers, badly designed, blighted by crime and, above all, lacking cohesion.

He pointed to the problems facing the shires where crime continued to rise and where street disturbances were caused by youths who were white, employed, affluent and drunk.

He asked where were the teachers who should have helped mould a sense of responsibility, obligation and discipline of the youths. He was most critical of parents for failing to influence their children.

"Too many parents seem to have opted out, giving youngsters their head is all very well, but only when they have been equipped with fixed points - a sense of responsibility and values," he said.

He praised the Prince of Wales for his work, urged a new legal framework for charitable activity and the encouragement of the local businessman to stimulate employment and the arts in disadvantaged districts.

"The amazing social cohesion of England, formed under Peel and the Victorians, is in need of repair," Mr Hurd said.

"During this century the unravelling of this cohesion has gone dangerously far. During the remainder of the twentieth century we have set ourselves the task of knitting it together again."

Neoclassical revival deep in Wiltshire



The Palladian bridge that spans the Nadder at Wilton House near Salisbury, Wiltshire has been restored to its former glory. Sheeting which covered the bridge during a year of repairs has been removed to reveal a new roof and a restored plaster ceiling and stone work. Age and rain had damaged the bridge, built in 1737 by Henry, the ninth Earl of Pembroke, and Roger Morris (Photograph: Nick Rogers).

Trade union summit

Image change sought to stem decline

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Nineteen of the country's leading trade union leaders, representing more than eight million members, spent five hours together last night on the preparation of their blueprint for the future of the movement up to and after the year 2000.

General secretaries of every shade of political opinion within nearly all the main trade unions are spending a two-day session at the TUC's national education centre in north London.

They are concentrating on "consolidating and rebuilding the movement, on winning new respect and improving their standing, and on being relevant to actual and potential members."

It is the fourth meeting of the TUC's special review body, demanded by Congress last summer, to review the organization and structure of the unions.

Alarm over a big drop in

membership in recent years, and what the movement sees as the Government's sustained attack on them through "anti-union" legislation, prompted the review which will report to this year's Congress.

The meeting is being held against a backdrop of renewed militancy from trade unions on many fronts - miners, pit deputies, Ford workers, seamen, health workers - which will add urgency to the leaders' ambitions to regain strength through numbers and unity.

The session last night and today's will probably be the last but one before the body produces its master plan in March. This will then be circulated for discussion and comment throughout the trade unions in preparation for a key Congress debate at Bournemouth in September.

Last night's session heard some of the country's leading

experts on industrial relations and engaged in what was described as a wide, free-ranging debate on all the issues from the controversial no-strike and single union deals to the problems of inter-union rivalry, recruitment and "poaching" of members.

The review body will have in front of it the result of a comprehensive questionnaire sent out to trade unions as part of the year-long process of self-analysis. The problem of single-union deals and who sets the agenda for employer/employee relations features prominently among the trade unions' concerns.

The so-called "beauty contests" between unions to gain influence with management for the right to be the sole bargaining representative is one of the issues at the centre of the review.

One suggestion on how to resolve the problem involves the TUC acting as an ar-

bitrator if a union, which wins a single-union agreement, does not maintain the support of members. The review body is considering the possibility of forcing any union engaged in negotiations for sole rights to represent a workforce to notify the TUC, which could then go to others who would argue their own case. TUC officials would then decide the issue.

A code of conduct for those engaged in negotiating such agreements may also be introduced which would lay down rules on such contentious problems as the inclusion of no-strike clauses or pendulum arbitration.

The review body wants to see the end of the present system of straight competition between unions for members in the same industries. The Civil Service and the health service are clear examples of inter-union rivalry.

Charities lose legal battle on benefits

By Jill Sherman
Social Services
Correspondent

A coalition of charities and local authorities has failed to force the Government to employ more staff to prevent delays in dealing with supplementary benefit claims.

In a High Court ruling yesterday, Mr Justice Schiemann said that Parliament had not intended to place on Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Social Services, to appoint a sufficient number of officers to deal with claims rapidly.

The ruling was a disappointing defeat for the coalition, which had applied for a judicial review of laws governing benefits payments, when it became clear that late payments were causing widespread distress.

They argued that once a claim form had been completed and handed to the Department of Health and Social Security, the Secretary of State was under a legal duty "forthwith" to pass that form to an adjudication officer, who was bound to dispose of the matter within 14 days.

The coalition accused Mr Moore of being in breach of his duties by failing to ensure that happened.

The case was brought by the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux; the Child Poverty Action Group and the London boroughs of Hackney and Islington.

The judge dismissed the applications for judicial review and ordered the coalition to pay the legal costs.

He said it was common for properly completed claim forms not to be disposed of within 14 days of coming into the Secretary of State's possession and that delays in dealing with claims were caused by problems involving the collection of evidence relevant to the claim and by "spasmodic pressure of work" upon DHSS officials.

The coalition issued a statement after the judgement saying that claimants were still facing considerable delays which caused great hardship.

"We hope that the Secretary of State will recognize this situation and act to improve the quality of service in DHSS offices. Otherwise, eight million people in Britain, dependent on supplementary benefit, face a grim future."

Meningitis advice sent to doctors

Family doctors are being sent advice about meningitis by Sir Donald Acheson, the Government's chief medical officer.

He predicts an increase in cases of the potentially fatal disease this year, although he does not expect an epidemic.

Because of recent publicity about outbreaks of the illness among children, GPs must be able to give parents appropriate advice, Sir Donald says. "We are dealing with one of the periodic upsurges."

There has been a gradual increase in cases since 1984. Last year there were 1,090 cases, including 158 deaths.

The recent trends suggest that we may expect some increase in the number of cases to occur in 1988, Sir Donald says. "As the disease occurs more frequently in late winter and early spring, we can expect many of these cases to be diagnosed in the first quarter of the year."

Curb urged on TV sex films

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

John Whitney, director general of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, told the select committee of the difficulties in stopping pornographic films being transmitted into millions of British homes from abroad on satellite TV sets under way.

Mr Whitney confirmed the fears of the Prime Minister and Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, when he told Miss Janet Fookes, Conservative MP for Plymouth Drake, there was nothing to prevent blue films being broadcast.

Mr Gale believes the BBC and IBA have failed as regulatory bodies and he is campaigning for the new standards council to be an all

embracing authority which will keep a strict eye on the content of programmes broadcast by BBC, ITV companies, and satellite stations.

He wants the council to have the same powers as the BBC and IBA but to enforce them "more rigidly".

He says the council should also have the backing of the Foreign Office to take foreign satellite television stations to the European Court of Human Rights if they beam offensive programmes into Britain.

The Home Office is due to announce the chairman and membership of the council by the end of the month.

Industry urged to cut down water pollution

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

A "red list" of the most dangerous substances which may find their way into water courses is expected to be published by the Government within the next few weeks.

Legislation to control the manufacture, marketing and disposal of these substances will take at least two years to implement. In the meantime the Government is seeking action by industry and the water authorities to reduce discharges.

Dangerous substances are defined as those which are toxic, persistent and liable to accumulate biologically. The aim is to cut discharges by a half by 1995.

A similar reduction is sought in discharges of phosphorus and nitrogen into areas of the North Sea.

The contribution of British rivers to North Sea pollution is said to be very small compared with Continental rivers such as the Rhine and the Elbe but it is felt that Britain must be seen to be playing its part.

The Ministry of Agriculture is inviting the Pollution Inspectorate to participate in a review of all industrial waste licences, with a view to finding alternatives to dumping at sea.

Penalty on house searches

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

The Government has indicated it may support the introduction of penalties against local authorities which fail to carry out searches for home buyers within a reasonable period.

The Government would also support the computerization of house and planning details in order to reduce the long delays.

Mr Colin Moynihan, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Environment, told the Commons that the Government believes the cost of computerization need not be an obstacle as home buyers would be willing to pay a little more for if they could rely on a quick and reliable service.

He said the Government had not closed its mind to the idea of sanctions against slow local authorities, but was concerned that they must be effective.

Mr Moynihan doubted whether it would do much for the cause if the sanction was merely to deprive the local authority of its search fee.

Mr Moynihan was speaking in an adjournment debate initiated by Mr John Heddle, Conservative MP for Mid-Suffolk, who had called for sanctions against councils which took more than two weeks to carry out searches.

Councils in London have in recent months been taking up

to 19 weeks to complete the inquiries, causing difficulties for buyers.

Mr Moynihan said the idea of computerizing the system had a lot to offer, but added that many local authorities were not keen on the idea either because they were already able to answer the inquiries in a reasonable time or because of the capital outlay involved.

Last December, the Law Commission's standing conveyancing committee reported on local searches, and outlined a number of options including that of scrapping the whole system.

The commission has asked for comments on its report by the end of March.

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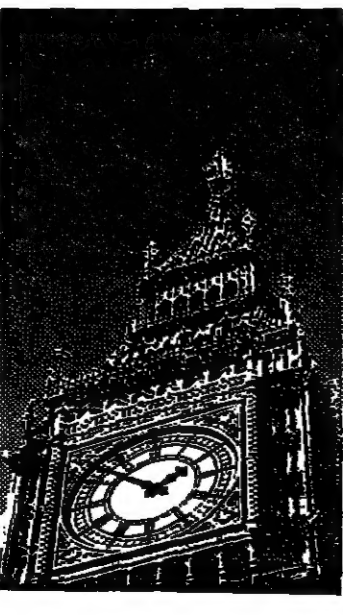
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February 5 1988

PARLIAMENT

Rear-seat children risk death

A Bill to make the wearing of rear seatbelts in cars compulsory for children received an unopposed second reading in the Commons, after Mr Peter Bottomley, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, said that it filled a gap in the law.

Mr Stephen Day (Cheshire, C), moving second reading of his Bill, said that casualty figures showed how much at risk children were when carried unrestrained in the rear of a vehicle. In 1986, 89 per cent of children killed or injured in road accidents were in the back seat.

The figures also showed that 91 per cent of child fatalities occurred in the rear seat, and that 65 per cent of those were between five and thirteen years of age.

Surveys showed that only 17 per cent of youngsters in the

Several backbench Bills failed because of objections to them when the day's sitting ended. Among them was one to give the right to reply to those aggrieved by press reports. Mr Paul Boateng (Brent South, Lab) put on a red nose and declared his support for one of the "lost" Bills, aimed at eliminating poverty in old age.

He anticipated that the Bill would bring a reduction of some 50 serious and fatal accidents to children in its first year and about 300 in the following year.

Independent analysis showed no increase in casualties in accidents where there was a fire since the introduction of the front seatbelt law.

Mr George Robertson (Hamilton, Lab) said that between 200 and 400 people who would have been killed were saved because they had been wearing seatbelts and 7,000 people had been protected from serious injury because they were forced by the law to wear a seatbelt.

This measure should be simple, uncontroversial, uncomplicated and wholly beneficial.

No one would send a valuable piece of china through the post or eggs in a box without making sure they were too strongly packed to move around. Yet people were permitted to carry small children at 30 mph without restraint.

Sir Anthony Grant (South West Cambridgeshire, C), president of the Guild of Advanced Motorists, said that 90 per cent of its members supported such compulsory restraints.

Mothers often suffered from the delusion that if they were clutching their baby the child would be safe in an accident. Also, the contrary was true. Mothers were permitted to carry their babies in the front of the car, where they were most vulnerable.

He detested the nanny state, but children were different. Children needed nannies.

People were not allowed to starve children, to deny them shelter, make them drunk or let them be uneducated. Why should it be a greater infringement of freedom to make sure that they were not killed or maimed in motor vehicles?

Sir Philip Goodhart (Beckenham, C) said that the House was always anxious to press the Government to take urgent

action to tighten up safety laws when there were accidents involving ferries, tube trains or planes, but was strangely reluctant to legislate on road safety.

Perhaps it was because many MPs were dreadful drivers. It was very embarrassing, if one made a stirring speech in favour of road safety and was arrested for speeding a few days later.

Mr Gary Waller (Keighley, C) said that the seatbelt had altered driving styles. Since its introduction there had been a 40 per cent increase in fatalities to cyclists and a rise in deaths of rear-seat passengers.

It could not be acceptable to transfer the burden of risk from the best protected - the motorist - to the most vulnerable.

Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby, Lab), said that once again legislation was being delayed by those who argued that the last bastion of freedom was the freedom to go head first through a windscreen and that that freedom should be preserved for children.

Mr Toby Jessel (Twickenham, C) said that 12 years ago his only daughter, aged five, had been killed in a car crash on the M4. Even now it was not easy for him to talk about it but he had tried to force himself to see if good could come out of her death.

The only argument against was put by the freedom fighters. They did not take account of the wide range of meaning of the word freedom.

Mr Bottomley said that the Government already had power to lay regulations to require adults to belt up in the back of cars, but not children. The Bill would fill that unintended gap in the law.

The Government could not consider laying such regulations for adults until at least half of all cars had rear belts fitted. That was probably still four or five years away.

All parents knew that they should have child restraints and that they ought to use them. They just needed encouragement, which would be provided by the Bill.

"What parent would deliberately hold a child head down five feet above a glass table and then let go? But that is far less of a collision or impact than a car stopping dead at 25 mph."

Mr Timothy Devlin (Stockton South, C) said that often, at Prime Minister's question time, they heard Opposition MPs shout "Babies are dying" and a great roar went up that something must be done. Today the House was dealing with the greatest cause of baby deaths, but where were these MPs now?

Safety Bill talked out

A private Member's Bill aimed at improving public safety by ending the secrecy that covers inspections of places of potential danger was lost in the Commons for lack of Parliamentary time.

Mr Christopher Smith (Islington South and Finsbury, Lab), moving second reading of the Environment and Safety Information Bill, said that it was based on the importance of freedom of information in government and administration and the need to improve safety provisions.

The Bill required all monitoring agencies responsible for public or environmental safety to keep a register of notices issued by their inspectors of improvements that should be carried out, and to make this available for public inspection.

Agencies would include the factory, agricultural, nuclear, railway and industrial and air pollution inspectors, fire authorities and local authority environmental health officers.

The railways inspectorate had made a serious error at King's Cross station on March 24, but by the time of the tragic fire in November, its recommendations in relation to fire risks had not been acted on.

"If there was a provision that a notice when issued would become public, then I believe it would be much easier for inspectors to secure complete compliance with their requirements."

Mr Patrick Nicholson, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, said that the Government acknowledged that the Bill was laudable in concept and did not oppose its principles or aims. Although care would be needed in committee, the Government did not oppose it today.

The debate was adjourned.

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Gambling latest Spanish custom

Madrid — Four Spaniards, staking as little as £1.50 in the national lottery, chose 10 drawn numbers correctly in their separate entries to share £8.5 million (Richard Wigg writes).

About £30 million was staked in Thursday's draw as gambling fever swept the country. All but one of the four — a well-known Salamanca paediatrician — were yesterday trying desperately to keep their anonymity. The so-called Loteria Primitiva, started by the Socialist Government in 1985, is now appealing to people of all classes. One of the anonymous winners, who lives in a working-class suburb in north Madrid, was reported to have gone to a local bank with his or her winning ticket, so avoiding the office where it was purchased and the waiting reporters. In one of the seven lotteries last year, a Málaga woman won £4.3 million. She immediately went on a prolonged holiday.

Death penalty waived

The Irish family of a woman battered to death in Saudi Arabia in 1986 has waived its right under Islamic law to have her alleged attacker executed, if convicted, before her trial begins today in Taif, 100 miles east of Mecca (Sam Kiley writes). Mr Peter Hall, aged 40, and his wife Monica, aged 38, were arrested in July, 1986, and charged with the murder of Mrs Helen Feeney, aged 47, from Carracastle, County Mayo, Ireland, found dead in her flat in April that year. RYADH: A Chadian was beheaded in the Red Sea city of Jeddah yesterday after confessing to drug smuggling (Reuters reports). The Saudi Press Agency said police found more than 25 million narcotic pills and 25 cases of alcohol in the house of Ahmed bin Ali bin Mohamed.

Jew loses US rights

New York — A Brooklyn Jew who spent the past three decades as a practising Orthodox believer has been stripped of his US citizenship after admitting that he had fellow-inmates as an overseer in a Nazi concentration camp during the Second World War (Charles Brenner writes).

In a case which has aroused emotion in New York's Jewish community, the authorities resisted calls for deportation and agreed to allow the Polish-born Mr Jacob Tannenbaum, aged 77, to remain in the US under supervision.

Dissidents 'emigrate'

East Berlin (Reuter) — Three East German dissidents suspected of treason have been released and sent to West Germany, the official East German news agency reported yesterday. It said Herr Ralf Hirsch and Herr Wolfgang Tempelin and his wife, Regina, "emigrated".

Herr Stephan Krawczyk, a songwriter and his wife, Frau Freya Klier, a theatre producer, dissidents sent to the West on Tuesday, have said they did not go willingly, prompting Herr Wolfgang Vogel, a mediator in spy and humanitarian exchanges to say he will no longer represent dissidents.

Turks lift Nurses asset curb to appeal

Ankara — As an apparent first result of last weekend's summit meeting between Mr Turgut Ozal, the Turkish Prime Minister, and his Greek counterpart, Mr Andreas Papandreu, Ankara yesterday announced it was lifting controversial restrictions imposed 24 years ago on the sale of property left behind by deported Greeks (Rasit Gundulic writes).

About 12,000 Greek nationals enjoying unrestricted residence and work in Turkey were unceremoniously told to leave because of clashes in Cyprus.

Congress party boost

Agartala, India (Reuter) — The Congress (I) party of Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister, received a boost yesterday by ending 10 years of Communist rule in the state of Tripura. Latest returns in local elections showed the Congress and its local ally had won 31 of the 59 seats declared for the 60-seat state assembly. The remainder were won by Communists. However the Congress lost its majority in Meghalaya state, where it had taken only 21 of the 58 seats declared for the 60-seat assembly. Its main rival, the Hill People's Union, had won 19 seats.

Two Stalin purge victims restored to favour

Bukharin widow wins her fight

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Nikolai Bukharin and Alexei Rykov, the two leading Bolsheviks who were rehabilitated this week, were often bracketed together politically during their careers, most poignantly at their joint execution after the show trial staged on Stalin's orders 50 years ago.

No authoritative account of their deaths exists, but an unofficial version widely circulated in Moscow at the time stated: "Bukharin and Rykov died with curses against Stalin on their lips. And they died standing up — not grovelling on the cellar floor and weeping for mercy like Zinoviev and Kamenev."

Of the two, Bukharin — who would have been 100 years old this year — is the better known, not least because of the eloquent campaign for his pardon waged relentlessly by his widow, Anna, who is still alive. Soviet officials believe there is little doubt that Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, was motivated in his decision to push hard for the rehabilitation by the personal letter she wrote to him after he came to power in March, 1985.

"In spite of the tense international situation, I wish to put before you the question of the posthumous party rehabilitation of my husband, the father of my son... I am appealing not only for myself, but for Bukharin himself," she wrote. "Leaving the February/March Plenum (of the party) in 1937 for the last time, Nikolai Ivanovich sensed

he would not be returning, and bearing in mind my youth at that time, he asked me to fight for his acquittal after his death."

One of the first hints that Bukharin's rehabilitation was indeed approaching was a remarkable interview which his widow gave last November to the Soviet magazine, *Ogonyok*, in which she spoke about his horror at the collectivization policy being pushed through by Stalin at the cost of millions of lives.

"I saw tears in the eyes of many of Lenin's comrades when he died, but only one person could weep like a woman as Bukharin did," she said. "During collectivization he travelled through the Ukraine and at small half-stations he would see crowds of children with stomachs distended from hunger. They were begging. N.I. gave them

all his spare change. On arriving back in Moscow... he would collapse on to the bed in hysterical sobbing."

"But at the same time he was a revolutionary of great passion and unrestrained temperament."

Last week, for the first time in about 50 years, *Kommunist*, the party's main theoretical journal, republished a speech which he delivered in 1929 and which indicated why he is now seen by many Soviet thinkers as the "father" of much of Mr Gorbachev's economic reform drive.

"The transfer... to a new order is simpler, easier and more attainable for the peasantry if the people approach socialism through the co-operative system, guided by their own advantage," Bukharin pronounced in 1929, speaking on the fifth anniversary of the death of Lenin.



Alexei Rykov, left, whose economic policies were aligned with those of Nikolai Bukharin, right, "father" of reform.

Harsh reality looms for front-runners in Iowa

Des Moines — It seems as though the presidential election is here already. More than 2,000 journalists from some 15 countries have arrived in Iowa, and another 1,000 or so are expected this weekend. On caucus night every US television network will carry live results, and more than 40 lorries with satellite dishes — half the total of such vehicles in America — will broadcast to the nation.

The front-runners in the presidential race are giving up to nine speeches a day, ramming home their messages in the final week with 300 30-second political advertisements. An average viewer has seen five in a row. More than one million pieces of literature have been sent to the 2.8 million Iowans, with Representative Jack Kemp mailing 300,000 brochures last month alone.

The caucuses have brought Iowa an estimated \$40 million (£22.7 million) in extra revenue, and all the Des Moines hotels are booked solid. One local television station has devoted 12 hours to political debate this month and the Democratic front-runner, Representative Richard Gephardt, has spent 136 days

campaigning here. And all this is to record, at best, about 250,000 votes from those attending the first stage of the four-tier selection of a handful of delegates to the national party conventions.

But what matters here is not the result but the perception. America has become weary by the endless campaign, and Iowa — at last — will give an indication of political

US Election View

By Michael Binyon

strength. It will not be based on polls or gossipy speculation but on the first actual voting figures, however unrepresentative or skewed by the peculiar circumstances of only one-fifth of the voters braving temperatures as low as -20°C to meet in groups whose composition may change considerably during the course of the evening.

There are really two elections involved. The first is an informal, somewhat chaotic exercise in local democracy, while the second is the most sophisticated national analysis

of a result that has cost a small fortune to influence.

Victory on Monday depends on expectations. Unless the front-runner wins convincingly, he suffers a setback. Thus Senator Robert Dole, on the Republican side, has to maintain his 15-point lead over Vice-President George Bush or else he will appear to have slipped, losing what Mr Bush inelegantly called "the big mo" (momentum) essential to carry him forward into New Hampshire the following week.

If Mr Dole loses or only ties with Mr Bush, he is finished, as the Vice-President has a commanding lead nationally. And if Mr Kemp pushes Mr Bush into third place, he wins "the big mo" and the Vice-President is in real trouble.

Among the Democrats, Mr Gephardt must maintain his newly found front-runner spot, Governor Michael Dukakis would come under strong pressure to do well in New Hampshire if he were not in the top two, while Senator Paul Simon would suffer a near-fatal loss if he were a distant third, having once been a front runner, and Governor

Bruce Babbitt would be the long-odds favourite if he could rise above fourth place.

The key to success is organization: identifying potential supporters, locking in promises of support, ensuring they get to the caucus meeting. It is old-fashioned legwork — canvassing, telephoning, computer forecasting, Mr Dukakis, with more than 100 paid staff workers, has listed every Iowan with a Greek surname, in the hope of using the ethnic vote. Mr Babbitt's staff telephone about 1,500 possible voters a night; Mr Gephardt's campaign will have made 180,000 calls in the final three weeks. And Mr Gary Hart is sinking like a stone.

Endorsements help — the backing of *The Des Moines Register*, the influential paper, for Mr Simon and Mr Dole gave both their campaigns a badly needed fillip.

Tenacity is essential: Mr Babbitt started early and stuck through all the lean months until he was noticed. But what wins in the end is the message. Mr Gephardt has identified farming and trade as the key issues; Mr Simon has made

much of health care and social services in a state with the third-largest proportion of pensioners; and Mr Dole has concentrated on neighbouring-state rural roots. All have had to tune their message to Iowa's generally left-of-centre attitudes. The unknown factor is the hidden army of evangelicals, previously politically apathetic, that the Rev Pat Robertson says he is able to mobilize.

Most candidates, and much of the nation, are now heartily sick of hearing about Iowa, its corn, its pigs and its clean-living dullness. Only Senator Albert Gore has had the courage to ignore this first test.

One result of the excessive concentration of attention has been a downplaying of the New Hampshire contest, where many a candidacy came to grief a few minutes away from the area where 24 hours earlier Laotian forces shot down a Thai jet fighter with a ground-to-air missile.

Royal jet flies near Thai battle zone



From Our Correspondent Chiang Mai, Thailand

On their flight yesterday from Bangkok to northern Thailand the Prince and Princess of Wales were greeted a few minutes away from the area where 24 hours earlier Laotian forces shot down a Thai jet fighter with a ground-to-air missile.

But Thai officials said no extra security measures were in force for the flight of the royal VC-10 as fighting between Thailand and Laos was confined to a small section of the border.

The Thai Army commander, General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, claimed yesterday that his forces have killed 200 Laotian soldiers and wounded another 200. He put Thai losses at one-third or a quarter of that figure.

Army officers in Bangkok said fighter-bombers and artillery had pounded Laos positions yesterday on top of Hill 1428, now the focus of the border dispute which started last May over logging rights.

Thai troops secured two other hills in the disputed border area some 250 miles from Bangkok this week.

But Vietnam's KPL news agency, monitored in Bangkok, said yesterday that Laotian troops had beaten back the Thai attacks, inflicting heavy losses. Laos state radio denied Thai charges that Vietnam was giving anti-aircraft missiles, ammunition, and other support to enable Laos to continue fighting.

General Prem Tinsulanonda, Thailand's Prime Minister, said yesterday Thailand would have full control of the disputed area in two or three days.

The Princess of Wales chatting yesterday to a Thai official about the painting on a traditional umbrella presented to her during a visit to the factory where it was made in the northern city of Chiang Mai. Shortly before the royal couple left Thailand last night, it was announced that the Prince of Wales would leave the flight early today during a refuelling stop at Bahrain and would fly by private jet for a week-long safari in Tanzania. The Princess will go on alone to London. When the Prince put on a safari suit

yesterday for his solo visit to a Thai agriculture development project, sponsored by King Bhumibol in the hills outside Chiang Mai, a British official remarked that he was "trying it out" for Africa. The Prince observed farming experiments to help eliminate drug production by poppy cultivation, and saw fish farming of freshwater catfish and carp, mushroom growing and cattle raising. He sniffed at the local compost and said the aroma was different from the Gloucestershire variety.



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Mozambique switch to self-help

Aid experts decide food handouts can be the road to ruin

By Paul Valley

The amount of emergency food handouts given to famine-stricken Mozambique should be reduced and replaced by more sophisticated methods of aid, according to a confidential meeting of senior aid workers at the Foreign Office's private conference centre at Wiston House this week.

Representatives of the British, US, and various European governments gathered there, along with senior officials of the United Nations' relief, food and refugee organizations and leading private aid agencies, for a confidential "brainstorming session" with key Mozambican Government officials.

The consensus reached marks a significant development in the move to make emergency aid to the Third World less orientated towards hand-outs and more concerned with promoting self-help. The prevailing assumption of earlier relief operations was that development aid would be provided only after emergency help. Experience has now shown that the way in which emergency help is given can be crucial in determining how successful long-term rehabilitation will be.

Free food, the conference decided in a strikingly forthright summary of its decisions, "could be counter-productive and dangerous in the medium term". It could create a dependency on aid and ruin the local economy.

The new co-ordinator of the Mozambican relief effort, Mr. Prakash Ratilal, a former governor of the country's Central Bank and the architect of its current IMF-backed reform programme, said: "We do need more support but the main problem is not the level of funding - it is how the existing money could be used in a more effective way. Many donors have seen the solution to the emergency just in terms of sending food and trucks to transport it. But Mozambique is not a Sahel country. We have problems with drought but the main cause of the emergency is the activities of

the terrorists who are backed by South Africa.

"They have destroyed roads, railways and bridges, ruined 1,800 health centres and destroyed 720 schools, 900 rural shops, 1,300 lorries and 44 agricultural enterprises including two major sugar factories. They have forced five million people, who lived on subsistence agriculture, from the land. Now they depend on imported food."

"The donors now understand the new strategy. Otherwise they will be forced every year to give the same amount of food aid. Food aid should diminish every year," the minister said.

In private, the aid officials were frank about the shortcomings of the current operation. A document before the

Rome (AFP) - Ethiopia urgently needs food other than cereals, mostly for children under 14, and many more trucks to deliver supplies, the World Food Programme's executive director, Mr. James Ingram, said yesterday.

He said a million tonnes of grain had been pledged for 1988, but his organization lacked powdered milk, vegetable oil and protein-rich biscuits. The Ethiopian authorities estimate 45,000 tonnes of such rations are needed. With transport a problem, Mr. Ingram said 100 more trucks were required.

conference listed some of these:

● Of 700,000 tonnes of food pledged by donors only 300,000 had actually arrived.

● Certain donors insisted on sending food they wanted to get rid of, rather than what was needed.

● Some insisted that planes, ships and lorries which they financed could be used only to transport their food.

● Some emergency aid took as long as nine months to arrive and donors then insisted that it had to go to a particular province, even though that area had become

over-supplied and others were in need.

● Donors insisted on high levels of accounting which required extra government staff at a time when the IMF package was demanding cuts in government staff levels.

● Several donors would not give permission for food aid to be sold in areas where the population could afford to buy. The result ruined the market for local farmers and suppressed future production. It also denied the Government the opportunity to raise local cash for re-investment in the relief effort.

Governments and agencies at the conference, which was organized by the Save the Children Fund, acknowledged the force of these criticisms and decided on a number of future measures.

An assessment mission which various UN agencies will begin in Mozambique in two weeks' time will draw up a two-year plan, rather than a one-year schedule as in the past.

Donors will be pressed to allow food aid to be redirected to areas of greatest need or to be sold where necessary. Food supplies should also be purchased locally, or in nearby African countries, rather than being imported from the West. This would be quicker and would encourage local production.

According to the new measures, donors should work through local government in an attempt to strengthen it, rather than operating in parallel. (In the short run this may slow down aid work but would mean that when agencies leave, their working methods may have been adopted by local staff).

Donors should agree to send only two or three types of lorry to Mozambique to standardize the fleet and make repairs easier and more economical. They should send more mature and experienced personnel and ensure that these people are not replaced too frequently.



Ancient image of Japan

The disembodied clay image of a human face, framed by an angular helmet, staring up from archaeological excavations at ancient graves in south-western Japan.

The pottery head is seen lying amid some of the many weathered wooden relics that predominate in Kashiwara at sites in the city of Tenri, more than 200 miles west of Tokyo. A dig is investigating burial mounds believed to date from the late fifth to the early sixth centuries.

Archaeologists examining two graves, were surprised to discover so many wooden artifacts - more than 500 items. It had been accepted before the present find that earthenware was used only to embellish burial grounds dating from around 1,500 years ago, but experts said this week that this long-held view may now have to be revised.

Famine spectre as crops fail in Sudan

From Andrew Buckoche, Umm Shekh, Sudan

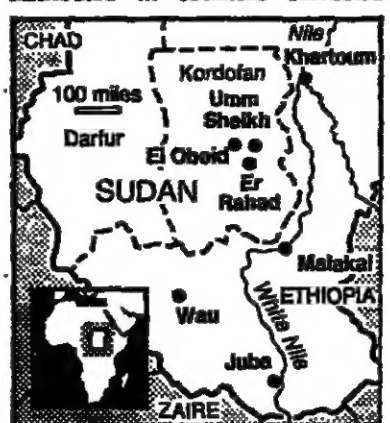
At the village of Umm Osheikh in the Kordofan region of western Sudan, the *hafir* is empty, though the next rains are not due until June. The *hafir* - a clay pit into which water is diverted from a temporary watercourse near by - is the village's only supply. It is a two-hour donkey ride to the nearest alternative, or the villagers must pay a tanker to bring water from the bilharzia-infested lake at Er Rahad. But all this is normal.

Though two million people in the Sudan's western regions of Kordofan and Darfur are officially described as affected by drought, they are not suffering from famine nor, by the strictest definition, even drought. The average amount of rainfall was simply too concentrated and ill-timed for most of the food crop to mature. In the worst areas, only 10 per cent of last year's bumper harvest was achieved - though the average is probably around 30 per cent. Even this is not abnormal. Northern Kordofan and Darfur merge into desert and the success of the dura - a drought-resistant millet planted here - is never certain.

What is abnormal is that most of the livestock in which the people store their wealth was either sold or died in the great drought and famine of 1984-85, so they have little with which to buy the extra food they need from this year's surplus areas or from stocks held over from previous harvests.

As a result, the Government is arranging the supply of 70,000 tonnes of dura in Kordofan, and a slightly

smaller quantity in Darfur, to be sold at subsidized prices. Free food was supplied by aid agencies working in the area up to last year, despite the good harvests, and there is a strong suspicion that this contributed to less being planted last year. There is still concern that subsidized food, to be distributed in southern Kordofan



where crop failures were limited, is unnecessary.

The open market price for dura in El Obeid, the capital of Kordofan, has more than doubled from last year. The grain channelled through the National Food Aid Administration will be sold at only a quarter of the market price, covering local transport and administration costs. It is being purchased from the government-controlled Agricultural Bank of Sudan with funds donated by the European Economic

Community, US Aid and the World Food Programme.

The 100-odd independent agencies that flocked to help in 1984-85 are no longer involved, and those left are concentrating on longer-term development projects.

The government stocks in Sudan are estimated at approximately 700,000 tonnes, about the same as the total estimated deficit from the last harvest, some of which is still being brought in. A similar stock is believed to be held by merchants - traditional speculators in foodstuffs - so no imports will be necessary.

There is, however, some concern that extensive subsidized sales of government grain could leave the merchants in control, should the rains be poor again this year.

The National Food Aid Administration is relying on the private sector to supply a large part of the deficit. The food subsidies are designed to supplement supplies and forestall price increases.

The administration chief in El Obeid, Mr. Bashir Korsi, says of the local farmer: "If he just sits in his village getting free dura, he has no need to work." Only people completely unable to pay, as assessed by village relief committees monitored by rural and district councils, will be given free food. Many families have members working, so it should not be difficult for most to earn enough.

The mood among aid officials is quietly optimistic. As long as the next

rains are good - and nobody wants to consider the prospect if they fail - officials hope to be able to stop food assistance. Mr. Korsi wants to "write the final report and close this office for good" later this year.

There is not much said about the south, however, where up to two million people may be threatened by famine. The civil war, and the Government's ban on aid agencies dealing with Sudan People's Liberation Army rebels, means that little is known about the hinterlands they control.

It is known that food is extremely short in the garrison towns of Juba, Malakal and Wau. Government officials, priests and aid agencies have been appealing for urgent assistance for Wau and Malakal, where it is understood people are now dying of starvation. But the suffering in these towns is due more to the rebels' disruption of transport routes than natural causes.

Even the shortages in western Sudan are not really natural. The steady decline in average rainfall over the last 30 years is believed to be caused both by tree-felling for fuel and agriculture and over-grazing.

The people were warned of the danger but did not believe it until the 1984-85 disaster. That terrible lesson has now been reinforced and Mr. Korsi says they are now much keener to plant, or at least preserve, rather than cut the trees that offer their only chance of survival.

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Harare trial will focus on claims of South African 'destabilization'

Zimbabwe whites accused of role in acts of sabotage

From Jan Raath, Harare

Three bearded white Zimbabweans were taken under unprecedented security to the Harare magistrates' court yesterday at the start of proceedings that are expected to expose the wide extent of South Africa's destabilization operations inside Zimbabwe.

The three — Mr Kevin Woods, formerly a Central Intelligence Organization officer who until last year was based in Bulawayo; Mr Michael Smith, a former trooper in the elite Rhodesian Special Air Service; and Mr Rory Maguire, a Bulawayo garage owner — shuffled into court in leg-irons and manacles with an escort of about 20 police. The court was guarded by dozens more police carrying automatic weapons.

Mr Woods and Mr Smith had their statements, made during investigations by police, confirmed by the magistrate, a spokesman for the court said. Neither man challenged his statement.

Next week Mr Maguire, Mr Barry Bawden and his cousin, Mr Guy Bawden, and possibly three other members of the Bawden family, from the Shangani ranching area 60 miles east of Bulawayo, are expected to appear. Mr Barry Bawden is a former member of a mortar company of the Rhodesian Light Infantry.

Confirmation proceedings are held in camera, but legal and security sources have revealed that the three men have allegedly confessed to involvement in at least seven incidents of sabotage and attempted assassination since 1981, as well as disclosing attacks planned for the future.

The alleged statements, which will become public when the trial proper gets under way at an unspecified date, are said to point to direct South African involvement in the past seven years of violence in Zimbabwe.

And to endorse the charges of Pretoria's bellicose foreign ministers meeting in Lusaka early this week.

According to lawyers, none of the statements were obtained under duress and the state's case is unlikely to be marred by the charges of torture that have featured in many other Zimbabwean security trials.

The alleged confessions are said to detail the men's involvement, either by directly placing explosives or by giving limited assistance to South African commando raiders, in a series of attacks.

They include the blowing up of a big army munitions dump at Inkomo barracks outside Harare in 1981; the escape from police custody in Harare of two South African agents the same year; the destruction of strike aircraft at Thornhill air base in July, 1982; the attack on the offices and a residence of the ANC in May 1986; the car bomb that severely injured a pro-ANC white in Harare's Avondale suburb in October, 1987; and the car bomb in Tlokweng, another Bulawayo suburb, on January 11, a week before their arrest.

Up to 25 people have been rounded up with the eight men who are appearing in court, but lawyers say they have been held only for questioning and that their release is imminent.

Zimbabwean law provides the death penalty for the alleged offences.

In the last of the network's attacks, sources said, a driver was hired from a local employment agency and told to drive the boot-trapped car to the back door of the ANC residence and to leave three times when he had done so.

The bomb exploded after the third hoot, killing the driver. The statements have named Mr Christopher 'Kit' Bawden, also from Shangani, as the man who detonated the bomb by remote control.

Sources said Mr Bawden left the country the next day with a friend who was travelling to South Africa for a wedding. He was last reported to be in Johannesburg.

The arrests were said to have followed that of a black South African agent, whose identity is unknown and who is believed to have provided the plain-clothes Law and Order branch in Bulawayo with the identities of members of the network.

In a series of raids, police uncovered arms caches at the home in Bulawayo of Mr Woods, aged about 42, described as the group's leader, and at separate ranches owned by, or managed by, the Bawdens in Shangani.

The statements are said to reveal that some of the arms were dropped by parachute on Shangani ranches at pre-arranged times by South African light aircraft which entered Zimbabwe's poorly protected airspace at night.

The men are also said to admit to receiving retainers, paid by the South African Government into bank accounts in South Africa.

Up to 25 people have been rounded up with the eight men who are appearing in court, but lawyers say they have been held only for questioning and that their release is imminent.

Zimbabwean law provides the death penalty for the alleged offences.



Two of the accused — Mr Kevin Woods, left, and a barefoot Mr Rory Maguire — being taken to court in leg irons yesterday.

Hepatitis threat to Hong Kong

Hong Kong (Reuters) — Health officials in Hong Kong and China are becoming increasingly fearful about a hepatitis epidemic amid unconfirmed reports that a rare but highly virulent strain of the disease is sweeping a western area of the People's Republic.

The colony's health authorities have reported 483 cases of the liver condition since January 1, already a third of the total recorded for the whole of last year. The number of people who have fallen victim to hepatitis in the eastern city of Shanghai alone could be as high as 40,000, Western diplomats said yesterday, as hospitals were reported to be overflowing with cases.

The Hong Kong authorities are especially worried about the estimated 500,000 residents who will cross the border to have traditional Chinese lunar new year family reunions on February 17, the start of the three-day festival.

Hong Kong's South China Morning Post said yesterday that officials in China's western province of Xinjiang had identified a rare, more virulent strain of hepatitis which takes effect more rapidly and has been classified as "non-A, non-B" until more investigation can be carried out.

A Hong Kong medical department spokesman said that little was known about the new strain, although a handful of cases had been reported in the colony.

The authorities in Shanghai have identified the outbreak as hepatitis A, which is normally caught through eating contaminated food. There have also been cases of hepatitis B, a more virulent form of the disease.

Many patients in the Chinese port are being housed in meeting halls and schools because of a shortage of hospital beds. Less serious cases are being kept at home.

The city's public health department put the known number of cases in recent weeks at 15,000, but one Western diplomatic source said, after contacting local doctors, that the figure was approximately 40,000.

The official Shanghai newspaper Wen Hui Bao said yesterday that the authorities had issued emergency orders in an attempt to control the epidemic. City officials have urged people to improve their hygiene and go for an immediate check-up if they believe they had been contaminated.

No deaths have been reported from the highly contagious hepatitis A virus, but a Peking-based Western health expert said that the Government would soon make a statement to calm public panic about the outbreak.

A United States consular warning issued in Hong Kong said travellers going to Shanghai should avoid drinking untreated water and avoid all raw food, including shellfish and salads. They were also urged to obtain gamma-globulin inoculations.

One factory worker waiting outside a clinic in Shanghai said his son had contracted the disease from eating infected clams, blamed for a massive food-poisoning outbreak in the city a month ago.

He said his factory and others in the city had issued bitter-tasting herbal medicine to workers during the past three weeks as a preventative measure. Supplies had been sent to Shanghai from other parts of the country but were hard to find in the city's shops.

A Peking health expert said the capital appeared to be protected from the epidemic because background levels of the virus were constantly high, meaning most of its citizens had developed a natural immunity.

Moi calls elections and frees nine critics

Nairobi (Reuters) — President Moi of Kenya dissolved Parliament yesterday to prepare for general elections. He also released nine political prisoners held without trial for up to six years.

Those freed include Paul Amuna, a freelance journalist who worked for Reuters, and Mr Raila Odinga, the son of an opposition politician.

The poll must take place within 21 days and only candidates from the ruling Kenyan African National Union are eligible.

Party 'illegal' in Malaysia

Kuala Lumpur (Reuters) — Dr Mahathir Mohamed, the Malaysian Prime Minister, ruled out an appeal against a court decision making his United Malays National Organization illegal.

Eleven party members who brought the case had wanted a poll confirming Dr Mahathir as party leader declared null and void. The party must now re-register itself.

20 Kurds to be executed

Ankara — A Turkish military court sentenced to death 20 Kurds belonging to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party and 13 others were given life imprisonment after a trial in the south-eastern town of Diyarbakir.

They were all convicted of setting up an armed separatist organization and of involvement in killing 100 people.

Aids warning

Nairobi (Reuters) — The risk of catching AIDS in a single sexual encounter with an infected person may be as high as 8 per cent, Dr William Cameron of Nairobi University told a conference here.

All out protest

Taipei (AFP) — Aging members of Taiwan's parliamentary watchdog body are to retire en masse to protest against reforms aimed at rejuvenating it, the United Daily News reported.

Jobless worry

Moscow (Reuters) — Two-thirds of working-age people in Uzbekistan are not working, Pravda reported in a scathing attack on official incompetence in the central Asian Soviet republic.

18 massacred

Karachi (Reuters) — Feuding Pakistani tribesmen killed 18 people, mainly women and children, in an attack on a village in Sind province.

Drug arrests

Vienna (Reuters) — Police arrested three Turks and a Yugoslav who used a mosque near here to traffic heroin with a street value of £875,000.

Fan jailed

Athens (Reuters) — A Greek court sentenced a soccer fan to 25 years' jail for stabbing to death a rival fan at a match.

Election violence grips Bangladesh

From Ahmed Fazi, Dhaka

At least nine people have been killed and more than 500 injured in political violence sparked by campaigning for Bangladesh's local elections scheduled to take place in rural areas on Wednesday.

The violence in the villages, where about 80 per cent of the population lives, has been exacerbated by family feuds and the settling of old scores among land barons.

Government officials are deeply worried by the scale of the violence, which is spreading as polling day approaches in the non-party vote in these village mayors and councillors in 64 districts.

More than 135,000 candidates are fighting for 39,000 available offices in the village councils — the smallest democratic institutions in the country and a legacy of the Raj. In one of the worst clashes, some 50 people were seriously injured in a gun battle during a campaign rally in the southern island district of Bhola.

A mayoral candidate was stabbed to death by his nephew in the northern Jamalpur district because he supported a rival candidate.

But groups of Marxist extremists who operate in parts of the country have also been blamed for some of the clashes, and at least two candidates were killed by the outlawed *sabkhas* (have-nots) in eastern Narail district on Tuesday.

The main opposition groups, the Awami League and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, which are boycotting parliamentary elections called for March 3, have not opposed the village polls.

Glasnost brightens life for Moscow night owls

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms have provided Moscow with a unique location which has rapidly become the talk of the town — the city's first 24-hour cafe, which is drawing crowds because it is the only nightspot open to Soviet citizens.

Cafe 44, at No 44 Leningrad Avenue, is a combined art gallery, restaurant and jazz cafe which, in the four weeks since it opened, has become a mecca for night owls deprived of any form of entertainment besides the grim state-run railway buffers.

The cafe, complete with stylish pine tables, a small stage and abstract paintings lining the walls, is one of 70 co-operative restaurants — including Chinese, Korean and kosher — operating under free-enterprise laws passed last year. It is said to be the only one of its kind in the Soviet Union which is open continuously.

Customers select from a small menu, which doubles in price after most state-run venues close at 10pm. But even with grilled pork, rice, and an acceptable if unexciting selection of pickled vegetables selling for eight roubles (£8) it has already begun to revolutionize nightlife in the capital.

Aimed primarily at artists and other intellectuals, the 29-strong co-operative which runs the cafe on the main airport road encourages customers to exhibit their work and to read their poetry. Saturday night, the main jazz evening, is the most popular of all, with queues stretching back in the snow.

In common with all other co-operative ventures, Cafe 44 has no alcohol licence, but this appears to have little effect in restraining customers determined to smuggle in their own drinks in true "speakeasy" style, or who have already consumed enough beforehand.

Mr Viktor Romanov, the manager, says: "It is a real headache. Co-operatives are supposed to be alcohol-free, and if we sold vodka we would immediately be prosecuted. But it is a problem to stop people bringing their own bottles or arriving drunk."

The staff, whose politeness and amiability is quite alien to normal, non-co-operative restaurant life in Moscow, work a 12-hour shift on alternate days and already earn a monthly wage about 100 roubles (£100) more than the national average. This will increase as debts are paid off.

Although the high prices have provoked criticism, they are defended by the management as vital to enable Cafe 44 to open through the night. They also seem to cause little concern to the young Soviet professionals who make up the bulk of the clientele.

"This is something we have been waiting for. It is a place to go and meet people instead of just hanging around one apartment or the other," said Volodya, one of the satisfied customers. "What we need now is about 40 more places like this."

Mr Romanov said: "We had a long battle with the bureaucrats to get permission to open here. Now we owe the state 40,000 roubles for all the fittings and decorations. Our dream was to create a home and invite some interesting friends to it."

Apart from the student jazz band which plays every Saturday, guest poets and folk singers also appear. The paintings, changed every month but not on sale, are chosen by a board of seven co-operative members who try to avoid upsetting the bureaucrats by not displaying anything which might be considered pornographic or anti-Soviet.

Tough Aquino defies critics

Fears of gag on dissent as Manila rebels held

From Humphrey Hawksley, Manila

President Aquino yesterday praised the military for the arrest of leaders of the Communist insurgency, while some churchmen and human rights groups condemned her for losing touch with the poor and for the deteriorating human rights situation.

In co-ordinated raids on Thursday the military broke into seven houses in the Manila area and arrested more than 20 suspected officials of the outlawed Communist Party. The raids, which took place after lengthy surveillance, uncovered sophisticated medical supplies for treating wounded guerrillas, and modern communications and computer equipment.

Possibly the most important capture was a record of funding from overseas organizations, which are said to give millions of pounds a year to the guerrillas.

President Aquino said: "I think this will answer our critics who say we don't have an anti-insurgency programme." Only last week she made a tough speech telling troops that she would stand by them "through thick and thin" and that they should "go out and fight".

The raids took in the largest number of suspected rebels in one operation since Mrs Aquino came to power nearly two years ago.

But her tough stand has prompted wide condemnation, as well as divisions within the powerful Roman Catholic Church, which was widened on Thursday when the influential Archbishop of Manila, Cardinal Jaime Sin, made it clear that he supported government policy on fighting the insurgency and human rights.

However, Father Domingo Moraleda, of the Association of Major Religious Superiors, the main umbrella group for Roman Catholic orders in the Philippines, said yesterday it made it clear that he supported government policy on fighting the insurgency and human rights.

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TIMES DIARY

SIMON BARNES

San Diego

If you have ever wondered whether you are a mature, discriminating viewer of sport, or whether you are a raving sports junkie, America will give you the answer. All you have to do is see how you stand up against ESPN, the all-sport cable television channel that operates 24 hours a day. If college basketball is your bag, you can get perhaps three live games in a single day. Watch one all the way through, though, and you are well on your way to junkiedom. If you can take the wrestling, you are more or less doomed. If you find yourself watching lumberjack contests, you are well over the edge, but it is when you decide to stay tuned for ten-pin bowling, surely the ultimate unteachable non-sport, that you must accept that you are past praying for. ESPN is for sport's main-liners. The company signed an agreement with the National Football League last year, and is now making inroads in the greatest television sport yet created. The channel specializes in hour-long previews of individual games, and hour-long reviews of every day's play.

From an Australian sitting next to me in the Super Bowl press box I learn that American football is making the same demented progress Down Under as it is in Britain. In 1984 hardly anyone in Australia knew about the game. Now there are 40 Australian teams. American football is destined to be a new medium for old rivalries, as part of the bicentenary celebrations, a three-match contest will be held in November between the British Bulldogs and the Australian Kookaburras, in a promotion somewhat hubristically entitled the World Series Gridiron. There are moments when I wonder if American football isn't going to take over the entire world. The Chinese Pandas v the Russian Bears in the Olympic final in 2000?

After the disastrous Paris-Dakar rally, in which nine people died, I learned that the late Simone de Beauvoir was a founder member of an organization dedicated to stopping the event. It's called Pa'Dak, a contraction of Paris-Dakar and also a colloquialism, as in *pas d'accord*. The group said: "While it has proved impossible to help Africa develop, ways have now been found, 25 years after decolonization, to send hundreds of vehicles careening across the continent for the benefit of our manufacturers, and to the great delight of those who enjoy watching jet-setters sweating it out."

It is one of the classic American jokes: "I went to a fight last night and a hockey game broke out." The gloves are off! It is an ice hockey expression: the players fling their padded gloves off and start belting one another at the smallest provocation. Players often commit small misdemeanours, such as, in the words of a Montreal hockey writer, "repeatedly trying to slice Toronto rookie Luke Richardson into a beef stew". This season the National Hockey League has made a quixotic effort to repair its image. It has more or less stopped what was once an everyday practice, of entire benches of a dozen substitutes swarming on to the ice to join in the fistfights. The NHL is making further efforts to make hockey into a more serious game by considering a 40-game suspension for such things as using your stick to create beef stews.

BARRY FANTONI



A woman who wants success as a jockey has a hard time of it on either side of the Atlantic. But Julie Kroon, with more than a thousand winners, is capable of giving as well as receiving a hard time. She was rather cross with a male jockey called Miguel Rujano who thought she was riding too close to him and clouted her over the head with his whip. So after the race, which she won, she sought Rujano out and punched him. Rujano shoved her into a swimming pool. Kroon answered this by hurling a chair at him. "I won the race by 12 lengths, so what was he complaining about?" she said afterwards. "The punch I got in was a real good one, though."

Even over here I insist on keeping up with what is always the oddest football competition of the season, the Welsh Cup. The winner goes into the European Cup Winners' Cup, and last autumn, as you may remember, Merthyr Tydfil of the Bezer Homes League played a tie against the Italian second division club Atalanta, and gave a classic underdog display. Now we are getting all set for it to happen again. There are only two Football League sides left in the Welsh Cup. Of the six non-League sides, Merthyr are still there, and so are Ton Pentre, a team from a Rhondda Valley mining village, population 3,000, who are away to Wrexham on Tuesday. But they are not quite the smallest side: that honour belongs to Colwyn Bay, away to Caernarfon on Wednesday. Colwyn Bay have no lights and no terracing and their average attendance is 250. They play in the Bass North West Counties' League. But they have a superstar in their midst, or at least they have his brother. Stephen Rush is the older brother of Ian Rush, ex-Liverpool, now Juventus. Juventus themselves are in the quarter-finals of the Italian Cup, so they are on course for a battle with Colwyn Bay. Bryn Jones, the Colwyn manager, says: "We haven't think about winning it yet."

With soft, placatory, emollient words Robert Jackson, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Education and Science, has sought (*The Times*, January 23) to reassure universities about the Government's intentions in the Education Reform Bill. Sir Richard Southwood has given (*The Times*, February 3) cogent reasons why Mr Jackson's arguments will not persuade universities that the Bill is actually a book for them, that (to quote the title of Mr Jackson's article) its aim is to uphold academic freedom.

Universities have taken fright at the manner in which the proposed Universities Funding Council is to operate. A Note circulated last May by the Department of Education and Science sketched out a scheme whereby universities enter into "contracts" with this body. The character, conditions and duration of these "contracts" is wrapped in obscurity. Unlike common or garden contracts, these instruments, it seems, make provision for no independent tests of performance, for no arbitration or appeal to the courts. Mr Jackson declares that these issues are not part of the Bill and, in the manner of a cautious attorney, says that the fire of those who regard contracting as a threat is misdirected, "in so far as that fire is directed against the Bill."

In so far, he says. But has it not

been made clear that once the Bill is enacted, statutory instruments and financial memoranda will follow, and a new, strict apparatus of control will then be in place?

Why the apparatus? Because, it seems, existing arrangements do not answer the Government's purposes. The new machinery will apparently allow "greater precision in the specification of what is expected", "closer links" between funding and performance in "delivering specified provision", and "periodic renegotiation of contracts".

Universities, however, are not commercial or industrial enterprises, geared to the "delivery" at a specified time of a specified commodity or services. In so far as this is the way ministers and officials have come to think of universities, the fears of universities are not as groundless or imaginary as has been represented.

These novelties are said to be necessary because public money is in question, for which the Secretary of State is accountable to Parliament. Mr Jackson, in

turn, exhorts universities to "greater openness and accountability". But the operations of universities are an open book. Their budgets are known to the University Grants Committee, and their accounts subject to the scrutiny of the Comptroller and Auditor-General. No vice-chancellor, so far as is known, has yet been caught in fraud, misappropriation or defalcation. The demand for accountability is, in this case, a demand for what exists already.

What universities do by way of teaching and research is likewise done in the light of day. Lectures are public, and the results of research published in books and articles likewise publicly available. If accountability refers to what universities do, then the question arises: how and to whom accountable? Someone examines a problem in low-temperature physics, or Tolstoy's prose, or the relation between rent levels and the location of businesses: to whom can he render account for his activities? The only answer is physicists, students of Russian

literature or economists. The reason is not that these are secret or esoteric pursuits, the affair of an exclusive coterie. On the contrary, any member of the public, of Parliament, of the Government can, if he chooses and has enough talent and perseverance, become learned in any of the subjects cultivated in universities, and thus able to pronounce on its worth.

A demand for accountability in this sense rests, then. But the clamour for accountability means perhaps something else. Universities cost a great deal of money. Should not such considerable investments be made to show a tangible return? How can they be made to do so? If the answer goes, they are made to eschew useless pursuits, and instead to promote useful knowledge — knowledge which increases productivity, improves industrial management, boosts exports. By thus increasing the general wealth and welfare universities would be earning their keep. Who can possibly object to a policy which, whether through "contracts" or some

other strict discipline, will change the universities from useless drones into useful, industrious bees?

What, however, cannot be established is an incontrovertible and sure connection between the efficiency and prosperity of an economy and the kind of subjects taught in universities. Was it because universities were delivering the right product that in the last century Britain became the workshop of the world? What makes for efficiency and prosperity is by no means easy to pinpoint, as anyone acquainted with the debate of economists and economic historians is aware. The conclusions of such academic debates are always provisional and perpetually under challenge. It seems very unwise for policy to become the prisoner of academic theories which are long chains of complex reasoning, any link in which may turn out to be weak or brittle.

Ministers can plan an increase of graduates in this, and a decrease in that, subject. Who can guarantee, short of direction

of labour, that candidates in the favoured — the fashionable — subjects will be forthcoming, or that, once graduated, they will do what they had been trained to do, or that their ministrations will benefit productivity and boost exports? The 136,000 places in science subjects provided, with public funds, on the recommendation of the Robbins Committee, but which proved surplus to requirements — was anyone held accountable for them? They stand an awesome monument to planners and their planning.

Who better than the present government to know that it is best to leave it to the market? If computer specialists, or export managers, or information technologists are in demand, then sooner or later, by hook or by crook, the supply will be forthcoming. Second-guessing the market, as anyone who buys and sells knows, is more likely than not to come a cropper. The advantages hoped for from this revolution will most likely prove illusory, the harm wrought by it very real. Does the Government really want to nationalize universities? Is it not safest and best to leave well alone? The author is Professor of Politics in the University of London and author of the pamphlet *Diagrams into Glass*. The Government and the Universities, recently published by the Centre of Policy Studies.

Paul Johnson

Thatcher's glorious forebear

Two hundred years ago this week saw the birth of Sir Robert Peel, perhaps the greatest peacetime prime minister in British history. He was also the founder of the Conservative Party, for which he produced, in 1835, the first true election manifesto. Mrs Thatcher's critics often assert that she is too fond of reforming existing institutions to be properly termed a Conservative. It is therefore worth recalling that the statesman who created her party was the author of even more radical changes.

Like Mrs Thatcher, Peel was an outsider by traditional Tory standards. His grandfather was a Lancashire farmer who helped to found a calico-printing firm at Bury. Peel's father, the first Sir Robert, built it up, during the hectic first phase of the Industrial Revolution, into the most prosperous textile business in the world, employing 15,000 people. He not only bought himself a seat in Parliament, a baronetcy and a splendid estate in Cheshire, which Peel inherited, but also set up his five other sons as country gentlemen.

Old Sir Robert was a fervent follower of Pitt the Younger, of whom he said: "No minister ever understood so well the commercial interests of the country". He saw his eldest son, as Pitt's eventual successor, as indeed he proved to be, and would say: "Bob, you dog, if you are not Prime Minister some day I'll disinherit you!"

From Harrow Peel went to Christ Church, Oxford, where his reputation for scholarship was such that, when he took the final exams, entirely oral in those days, a large crowd turned up to hear his answers. Afterwards, said an eyewitness, "the Examining Masters separately thanked him for the pleasure they had received". He was awarded a double first, in classics, and in maths and physics. The following month he was in Parliament and a year later Under-Secretary for War and the Colonies.

Peel served in office for the best part of three decades, as Chief Secretary for Ireland, as Home Secretary and finally as Prime Minister (1841-46), with a majestic Conservative majority. Probably no one man has ever

possessed such a comprehensive and detailed grasp of the whole machinery of government. Peel was a Conservative by nature and interest, passionately attached to the constitution and to the traditional way of doing things.

As he saw it, the problem facing the ruling class, during a period when Britain was undergoing a revolution in population and in rising expectations, was how to preserve a fundamentally sound system from violent overthrow by making it more acceptable and efficient. In his view acceptability and efficiency were inseparable. To work, Conservatism thus demanded well-judged and carefully timed but none the less fundamental reforms. The entire operations of government had to be improved and so popularized by applying sensible commercial principles. That is the pragmatic and, if you like, materialistic approach which Mrs Thatcher so clearly shares.

Both came only gradually to this viewpoint. Both did so because bitter experience proved to them that the existing system would work no longer. Mrs Thatcher had been an MP for 15 years and had served in Cabinet before she became an open advocate of Conservative radicalism in the mid-1970s. Peel took about the same time.

Peel's first important task was as Irish Secretary, where he inherited the ramshackle, based entirely on the Protestant Ascendancy. He struggled manfully to make it work and indeed succeeded in doing so better than it deserved. But during the 1820s the conviction stole upon him that Irish civil law must broaden to include the Roman Catholics. In 1828 he took O'Connell's victory in the Clare election as the signal that Catholic emancipation would have to come, and it duly followed the next year.

By that time Peel had already, and almost single-handedly, transformed English law. He is best known for his creation of the Metropolitan Police. But this was merely the culmination of a long process of systematic change. Peel held that it was no use substituting custodial sen-



tences for hanging unless you reformed the prisons first. Having done that, he embarked on a dramatic series of statutes which abolished capital punishment for most offences, repealed 278 criminal Acts, consolidating them into eight, and left only 10 per cent of the cases coming before the courts untouched by his reforms. It was a codification of the law comparable in scale to Napoleon's in France.

But Peel's heart lay in the rationalization of Britain's commercial and economic policy, a process begun by his hero Pitt which he triumphantly con-

cluded during his own great administration. It covered a huge area, from the legislation of trade unions, within limits, and the improvement of conditions in mines and factories, to reform of the tax system, the currency, the central bank and company liability. The aspect which most struck Peel's contemporaries was the introduction of free trade by the wholesale abolition of import and export duties, culminated by his repeal of the Corn Laws in 1846. This accelerated the coming of the railway and steamship age, which constituted the second phase of the Industrial Revolution, and made it possible for Britain to escape the violent class warfare which convulsed the Continent in 1848. In effect, Peel created the infrastructure of Victorian prosperity and stability.

Scrapping the Corn Laws proved too radical for some of the Tory country gentlemen. Inspired by the savage assaults on Peel by Disraeli, whose request for office had been refused, they broke the government and split the party. But this repudiation by many Tories of the most powerful and successful

leader they had ever had cannot be explained on policy grounds alone, a point Mrs Thatcher might ponder. Like her, he aroused irrational dislike, especially among the type of Tory who considers himself a cut above the rest of us.

His chief crime, like Mrs Thatcher's, was his humble birth. "Peel has no manners," complained Wellington; the fashionable women who surrounded the Duke were even more critical and prevented him from handing over the government to Peel in 1829-30, which might have changed the whole course of our history.

He was seen, like Mrs Thatcher, as being too commercially-minded. He responded by creating one of the finest art collections in Europe, housed in the 70-foot gallery of the magnificent house Smirke designed for him in Whitehall, overlooking the Thames. He tried bonhomie, amassing a fund of bawdy stories, and flaunted an exaggerated sense of personal honour. It was this that sealed his fate; his haughty refusal to use personal letters to destroy Disraeli allowed that unscrupulous adventurer to overthrow the government. But it was all in vain. The smoke never became reconciled to Peel any more than they will accept the lady who was born over the shop in Grantham. But in both cases, high above the whispered sneers and asides, the historical record speaks loud and clear.

There is one other significant point of comparison. Peel, like Mrs Thatcher, was an authoritative, some claimed overbearing, leader who was liable to take a direct hand in departmental affairs. Indeed, as Prime Minister he presented the budget himself if he thought it important enough. Such masterful figures, it is said, surround themselves with yes-men and breed no political progeny. Peel disproves this assertion. He created his own political culture and those who practised it, led by Gladstone, dominated the scene for most of the quarter century which followed Peel's death. It would not surprise me if, in this respect too, Mrs Thatcher comes to resemble her illustrious predecessor.

Commentary • PETER BRIMELOW

Grubbing around

New York
Any time in the weeks after New Year, my wife is likely to arrive home laden with brightly-coloured carrier bags and a faraway look in her eyes that reminds me of Coleridge:

For he on honey-dew hath fed
And drunk the milk of Paradise

I don't know if honeydew bargains are available in Manhattan's winter sales. But everything else seems to be. And in this turbulent city of huge population, unimaginable wealth and extraordinary cultural diversity, the complete absence of resale price maintenance produces frenzies of the most ferocious price-cutting.

It is disturbing to learn there is literally no upper limit to the amount that a woman can spend on herself. Thousand-dollar (\$600) leather belts complete with \$100,000 fur coats. But, in New York at least, there is no lower limit either. Volume-hungry retailers slash margins to create (I am assured) astonishing bargains. The resulting disorientation, and excitement, is intense. When Bottega Veneta's \$700 purses (American for handbags) went on sale this year (30 per cent off!), women lined up six deep. One was heard to say that she would tell her husband that Bottega Veneta bills were for nursery furniture.

Like most men I loathe shop-

ping. On family expeditions I usually end up abandoned by the wife like a founder camel. I lack the patience, stamina and ruthless determination essential to the true shopper.

But I've seen enough to know that these are real qualities, demanding real respect. Moreover, they are not simply acquired from necessity. Women executives from Wall Street can be found in the great discount houses of rag district, trying on cut-price Calvin Klein and asking strangers' advice in the common changing-rooms, where an atmosphere of total female solidarity reportedly prevails.

My theory is that, for women, shopping satisfies some primal need, just as hunting is supposed to do for men — at least in America, which is still vast and wild enough for killing wild animals to be part of the average male experience. (Similarly, hunting has never been an exclusively patrician pastime in Russia — British communists are said to have been greatly embarrassed once by news pictures of Lenin carrying a shotgun and apparently setting out for the grouse moors.)

The difference, typically, is that no one really needs to eat venison. But shopping for bargains has a practical point.

All this is explained in Jean Auel's remarkable novel of Neanderthal life, *Clan of the*

Cave Bear. I appear to be the only person in the world to admire this book apart from the several million who actually bought it. I think it has profound socio-biological implications.

For example, when Jean Auel's clan is on the move, the men are at the front, carrying spears and speculating about next year's mammoth hunt. The women bring up the rear, carrying the children and all the clan's possessions, and ceaselessly turning over stones and poking at bushes with their "digging sticks." The grubs and berries they thus discover are a staple of the clan's diet — sometimes all its diet, if the hunters' talk comes to nothing.

Several million years of this must have shaped the human psyche far more than the recent hunting moment of civilization. When women spent whole days rooting about in shops with maddening lack of apparent plan, tirelessly comparing prices and myriads of other details, they are acting on instincts that go back to the dawn of time.

At least, that's what I tell my wife as she unpacks what she's bought. She tries to hit me with her digging stick. The submissiveness that Auel attributes to Neanderthal females seems to have got lost somewhere in the evolutionary shuffle.

The author is a senior editor of *Forbes Magazine*.

SCIENCE REPORT

Tinned moonbeams

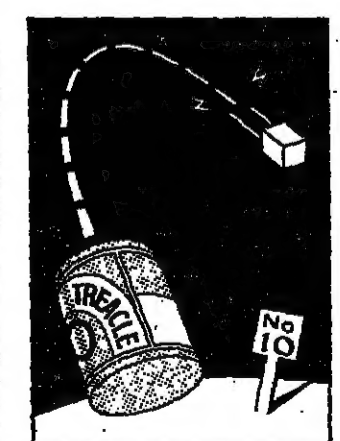
Washington

Imagine fleets of satellites the size of tennis balls, launched by an electromagnetic sling shot, exploring the solar system in packs of forty or fifty. It may sound like a fantastic scheme, but an engineer at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena — home to nearly all US missions to the planets — has shown that the technology to make this a reality is actually close at hand.

Ross M. Jones presented his ideas to a meeting of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics last month. He envisages minisatellites weighing 1kg, about as much as two pints of beer, being launched by a device called an electromagnetic railgun parked in low earth orbit. The railgun consists of two rails through which a large current can flow.

When an object is inserted in the "barrel" of the gun, an electric circuit is completed between the rails, and the combination of electric and magnetic forces sends it hurtling along their length.

Speeds of 10 kilometres per second (58,000 mph) are needed to get as far as Saturn. Projectiles of 250gm have already been propelled to



Richard Leadbetter

four years taken by the Voyager probe. The minisatellites could be powered by tiny nuclear plants weighing as little as 50gm. Information could rapidly be sent back to earth using a tiny laser beam rather than conventional radio techniques. Although not able to carry large payloads, the minisatellites would be useful in studying hitherto intractable problems, for example searching for the elusive tenth planet that astronomers believe is orbiting the sun but has never been found. Small changes in the orbits of the nine known planets are apparently caused by the tug of gravity from the missing planet. If a fleet of minisatellites were sent out from earth, and their trajectories tracked closely, it might be possible to determine where the gravitational tug is coming from. Minisatellites represent a completely new approach to space exploration. Their potential uses are limited only by scientists' imaginations. And if some day there are human outposts on the planets, the minisatellites could be used to send them tins of treacle.

JOSEPH PALCA



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SYNOD OF STRIFE

The death in December of the author of the *Crockford's* preface, Dr Gareth Bennett, brought the Church of England suddenly face to face with a truth many of its members had been trying to avoid. It is that a sizeable section of the Church feels some recent developments, and some which are pending, as a fundamental betrayal of everything they hold dear. They exist at virtually all levels of seniority, and they believe their cries of pain are being ignored.

The General Synod is to debate the *Crockford's* affair next Tuesday. It will address the more technical issues—who commissioned the preface, under what terms and why—as well as those of substance that Dr Bennett's preface raised. There is a danger, however, that it will concentrate its attentions too narrowly, trying to judge the merits of what has been done and said, ignoring another issue that is more important than either of them: how is the Church of England to live at peace with itself, when no consensus exists as to the direction it should be taking?

The Synod will not be sufficiently discharging its duty to the Church if it merely decides that the way the preface was handled was or was not correct; or to conclude that some or all of the analysis presented within the preface was or was not sound. To reduce it to that, and worse still to reach its answers simply by means of majority votes, would finally demonstrate that Dr Bennett had pleaded in vain.

The essence of his protest was that majorities have begun to tyrannize minorities in the Church. Anglicanism is an alliance of different schools and influences, not a monolithic creed, and yet has begun to act as if it were, compromising its comprehensive basis and undermining the loyalty of those parts of it which cannot subscribe to majority opinion. The most important specific issue here concerns the ordination of women to the priesthood; but there are various other controversies in the Church about which the argument could also be said to hold.

There is—as even Dr Bennett's defenders must concede—a strong presumption in social institutions of all sorts in favour of decision-making by majority vote. It is the tradition of

Parliament itself. But the authors of the constitution of the General Synod, which controls the domestic government of the Church, recognized that on certain issues a simple majority was an unfair test. For that reason they built in a provision requiring a two-thirds majority; that must be obtained in each of the Synod's three houses before a resolution may be considered carried.

Whether by accident or design, the principle of a two-thirds majority happens to fit the present spread of opinion on controversial issues in the Church of England rather neatly. The Church at large may be crudely divided into three parts—and this division is fairly accurately reproduced in the synod chamber, where the Evangelicals, the centrists or liberals, and the Anglo-Catholics are of roughly equal weight. Any two of those three groups, if they find an issue on which they can combine, can just about hope to outvote the third. Or to put it another way, none of those three groups can be sure that it could, alone, veto any proposition, no matter how harmful it deemed it to be to its own interests.

That might in theory have seemed like a wise provision, putting pressure on each group to find common ground with at least one of the others, thereby pushing it towards compromise and moderation. But in certain situations it generates an extreme sense of insecurity; for it means that none of the three can guarantee its own position in the Church. In the case of a long drawn out controversy, such as the ordination of women, it means that one part of the Church feels itself continuously and remorselessly under threat. That experience will be bound to wear down morale and eventually even induce panic.

The Synod cannot be content with this. The Church is too weak, and faces too many problems both internally and in society at large, to afford the luxury of alienating and wounding one of its three basic elements which constitute its comprehensiveness. How they are to be given the guarantees they need is a technical problem; that they must be given them somehow is the underlying message of the whole *Crockford's* preface and of the tragedy to which it led.

FOOTBALL PLAYS FOR TIME

Three years after the Haysel Stadium disaster the consequences remain. The death of 39 people after the riot of Liverpool supporters at the European Cup Final means that English clubs are still excluded from the European competitions.

The clubs complain but UEFA, the continental governing body, is rightly cautious. UEFA has said that it may readmit them next season provided there is no violence at the European championship for national teams in West Germany this summer. It should wait too until the clubs have shown a more consistent determination to solve the hooligan problem at home—whatever the financial cost.

Many of the authorities' efforts since 1985 have been successful. Video cameras are now in use at almost all 91 grounds in the League and have been of immense value in identifying offenders. The police, as a series of recent court cases and arrests has shown, have adopted a strategy of using undercover officers to help track the leaders of gangs who follow clubs.

In most anti-hooliganism measures, the Government, the police and the football authorities have acted in concert. The exception is over membership schemes.

In the aftermath of Haysel, the Prime Minister proposed that everyone going to matches should have an identity card which could be confiscated if the holder committed an offence. Because of the climate of opinion, the protests of football authorities were subdued at the time.

They knew, however, that full membership schemes would cost the professional game in England very dear. It relies heavily on casual spectators. The clubs' administrators, therefore, followed the too frequent example of their players; they played for time, opening discussions with the Government on other

methods of eliminating hooliganism. In time politicians' memories of Haysel became hazy.

The Government's demands dropped to 70 per cent of ground capacity, then to 50 per cent, and finally to 50 per cent of the accommodation for supporters of the home team, which was agreed by the Football League on behalf of the clubs. But insistence on even this proportion is now waived if the local police give written evidence of their approval.

The Football League also commissioned a report from management consultants, whose recommendations (given to the League in July) were only yesterday finally revealed in *The Times*. They advocate an identity card scheme, with different cards for home supporters and away supporters and strict segregation in separate parts of the ground. This is a significant extension of the present policy. Controlling violence at stadia would be much simpler. Police and stewards would be free to concentrate on the small remaining, neutral areas of the ground.

Mr Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport since last June, has to ensure that the tactics of the clubs to avoid their responsibility for football violence are not successful. At the moment there is a lack of coherent policy.

Football clubs will eventually have to be more inconvenienced than they are today. The Manchester United handbook says that "we have to be seen by society to be doing whatever we can to keep the problem to manageable proportions." All should, at least, live up to that moderate statement.

Football is now conditioned to membership schemes. The idea of identity cards for home and away supporters is a step towards what the Prime Minister suggested three years ago. It should be the minimum of the Government's demands.

MIND OVER MARRIAGE

Marriage still offers the majority of people their greatest chance of happiness and fulfilment. A generation ago that would hardly have needed saying; but social and sexual changes in the last 20 years have often seemed to call the institution itself into question, though never with any very convincing alternatives in view.

Now the high tide of change seems to have passed, and it has survived those pressures. The real crisis now facing marriage, which was explored in three articles in *The Times* this week, is no longer the challenge of rival "lifestyles" but the stress within the marriage relationship itself, as demonstrated by the truly alarming national divorce statistics.

When a marriage goes wrong whole lives are disrupted. All those involved are vulnerable to severe personal damage. The success of parents in rearing mature and balanced children depends on the quality of family life. Yet as many as one in three modern marriages are reported to be at risk.

Such attempts as have been made to quantify the cost of this damage to society in financial terms show that marriage breakdown is the source of a drain on public resources, perhaps approaching £2 billion a year. Even that is much less than the whole cost, which is also born in the suffering and distress caused by the breakdown and its consequences. But, as one of those quoted in our series shrewdly observed, such pain is often hidden or denied. We like to pretend publicly that divorce is a painless, indeed casual or frivolous experience.

This is a dangerous myth. It makes individuals unprepared for the stress that may await them. It also gives the prevention of marriage breakdown a lower public priority than it deserves. One point which emerges

clearly from our series is the degree to which researchers into the reasons for marriage breakdown are hampered by lack of resources. The less we know about why some marriages thrive and others die in disillusion, the more it is that success or failure at marriage will be viewed with fatalism, as if it were predestined, arbitrary, and inscrutable.

Moreover, the findings that are known have hardly begun to filter down to those who need them most—those looking for a marriage partner. The common expectation of marriage, its students all agree, is quite unrealistic. The first and often terminal crisis in a new marriage will be the impact of actual experience on those false hopes. It seems as if a whole generation needs re-educating.

Education is a preventive measure; cure is likely to prove more difficult and expensive. The denial of adequate funding for basic research into the causes of marriage breakdown would be justified only if it were known for certain, in advance, that such causes are in principle undiscoverable; or if it were known that, on being discovered, nothing could be done about them. Neither is true. Modest expenditure would be likely to produce significant progress. Numerous promising research avenues have not been explored, simply for lack of money.

If it were a virus that was attacking marriage, epidemiological studies and laboratory research would proceed apace, and public health and public education measures could expect adequate Government support. That is exactly what has happened in the case of Aids, and rightly so. The incidence of marriage breakdown is in its own way a catastrophe: it demands some priority, too.

Why MPs fear the TV eye

From Mr John Stokes, MP for Halesowen and Stourbridge (Conservative)

Sir, The article (February 4) by Sir Robin Day on television in the House of Commons would have been more convincing if it had not been written by such a distinguished communicator. For few outside the communications industry appear to want the cameras in the Commons: at least not one of my constituents over the years has ever asked for it.

There is indeed a powerful case against televising our proceedings which generally goes by default in the newspapers.

Television is not a mirror of life: it distorts and often trivialises it. It tends to make behaviour worse—as, for instance, at public demonstrations. Television would utterly change the nature and character of the House of Commons, which is still one of the great debating chambers of the world. The serious nature of politics would become a mere adjunct of show business. Excitement would replace the ordinary routine of most debates.

Who would edit and control the broadcasts? Would not dangerous minorities, like the militants, have a field day? Should we not soon have trial of ministers and Civil Servants in inquisitorial displays, as in the USA, with its quite different system of government?

Television as a whole has done enough damage to our national life in tending to corrupt our taste and our morals without extending its sway to the House of Commons. Yours faithfully, JOHN STOKES, House of Commons, February 4.

Realms of gold

From Professor William Frost Sir, In saying that Byron (born 1788) was preceded by Pope (born 1688) as a poet making a living from poetry, Kenneth Baxter (February 1) makes an excellent point, but should be reminded that both poets had a pioneering predecessor in John Dryden (born 1631).

After losing his laureateship as a result of the Glorious Revolution of 1688, Jacobite Dryden managed to make a rather good living primarily from poetry, especially from his *Virgil* (1697-98), his earlier *Juvenal and Persius*, and the versions of Ovid and others in his *Fables* (1700).

Dryden's *Virgil* was in fact the precedent for Pope's *Homers* two decades later and was both a financial and critical success. Is there a better *Iliad* in English than Pope's, or a better *Aeneid* than Dryden's, even today? Yours faithfully, WILLIAM FROST, Wolfson College, Oxford, February 1.

Third World books

From the Reverend Dr A. J. Menezes Sir, The Headmaster of Bristol Cathedral School (January 2) asks whether there is an agency, public or private, which could undertake the collection of second-hand books for African schools. I am very happy to tell him that such an organisation not only exists, but has been in operation for the past three years.

This school undertook the organisation of what we called "The books for the bush campaign", whereby we have, on a number of occasions over the past few years, brought in quantities of books given to us by fellow independent schools such as Cranleigh, Eton, Oakham, Oundle and Uppingham.

We use them ourselves and we also distribute them to rural schools whose needs are even greater than ours. We have used currency collected from old boys and friends in England to cover the cost of transportation. Yours faithfully, A. J. MENEZES, Rector, Peterborough, P. Bag 3741 Marondera, Zimbabwe, January 18.

A shining example

From Mr A. P. Duggan Sir, The best example I have seen of the Swiss love of order and cleanliness (article, January 27; letter, February 2) was in a car breaker's yard. The yard was marked out in geometrically perfect rectangles, each one outlined in white, containing a numbered wreck.

Needless to say, there was none of the usual tangle of automotive bits and pieces embedded in several inches of oily mud which is *de rigueur* in this country. Yours faithfully, A. P. DUGGAN, 35 Springfield, Parkgate, South Wirral, Merseyside, February 2.

Currency conversion

From Mr Roger Buckley Sir, Received today, a reminder from Blackwell's requesting payment in "Japan dollars"; should not it be "America yen"? Yours sincerely, ROGER BUCKLEY, International University of Japan, Yamato-machi, Minami-Uonuma-gun, Niigata 949-72, Japan, February 1.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Revolutionary' thoughts at DTI

From Mr Amédée Turner, QC, MEP for Suffolk and SE Cambridgeshire (European Democratic Conservative)

Sir, Mr Tony Blair, MP's voyage round Lord Young in *The Times* (article, February 2) gives some interesting sightings of Lord Young's new "Department of Enterprise", but he is certainly wrong when he says that 90 per cent of the White Paper is hype. In fact Lord Young has revolutionised one aspect of the Department of Trade and Industry, and in a manner quite contrary to the way he talked earlier.

So, for ever, I hope, he has ended the spoonfeeding of individual companies in projects close to the market, paying for the development work of their new products. Eighty per cent of this money used to go to large companies and did nothing to improve British technology as a whole.

Lord Young has now put all the funds into groups of companies (with universities) collaborating on "pre-competitive research" which will indeed raise standards of enabling technology in whole sectors of British industry, but which do not favour one company over another in its individual new-product developments.

This could have been a glorious revolution, and might have actually changed things on the ground if Lord Young had given more funding. But at least it's a true revolution in the heart of the DTI—a paper revolution.

Yours sincerely, AMÉDÉE TURNER, 3 Montrose Place, SW1, February 3.

From Mr Robert Garnier Sir, In his article criticising a number of Lord Young's initiatives, Tony Blair, MP, suggests that the quality of the DTI's "enterprise counsellors" will not be high because they are to be paid only £70 a day.

Business counsellors of the Department of Employment's Small Firms Service are only paid £40 a day, and many of those working for the 300-odd local enterprise agencies are treated similarly. They are almost invari-

ably very senior retired executives from major national and international enterprises or people who themselves run their own businesses, some very large.

Mr Blair's insinuation is not an affront to these people, for, as high-ranking businessmen and women, they have inevitably grown broad backs and thick enough skins to ignore such ill-informed criticism.

However, his remarks are an insult to the very concept of voluntary and vocational work in this country, which is exactly what an "enterprise counsellor" is called upon to perform. He or she does it, not for gain, but because it is satisfying and useful and is a way of returning to the community the experience and knowledge acquired in the course of a long and successful career.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant, ROBERT GARNIER (Business counsellor, Small Firms Service), Bescroft, Wootton, Canterbury, Kent, February 3.

Stamp duty

From Mr M. M. Charlish Sir, Your report (January 30) that the Inland Revenue is to cease enclosing reply-paid envelopes with all tax returns and letters.

This surely is contrary to the principle that the Crown should not be beholden to the subject.

When I entered Crown service in 1939 I was sternly told that on no account was an enquiry to be made of the public without a pre-paid addressed label being enclosed for the reply. Furthermore, if a member of the public wrote enclosing a SAE this was to be returned to him unused, enclosed with the department's reply.

A less hard-nosed measure than that threatened by the Revenue would be to adopt DHSS practice. Claimants of benefits may obtain a pre-paid envelope addressed to their local DHSS office by applying to a post office counter clerk. Yours faithfully, M. MCEWEN CHARLISH, 132 Park Lane, Carshalton, Surrey, February 2.

us that "as you are short of funds, I don't think I need that X-ray you are writing up, doctor". A significant amount of the health service expenditure is in the last few years of life and possibly a proportion of patients will say, "Don't bother with all that costly technology; just keep me comfortable, doctor". In the renal dialysis field a recent survey has shown that a proportion of patients do quietly request withdrawal of active treatment—"enough is enough".

Finally, if an increasing budget leaves more and more individuals machine-dependent, there comes a limit to the staff involved in looking after these increasing numbers, as is already occurring in neonatal units. The trainable pairs of hands are finite and need conserving.

So, let us stop talking about the unachievable infinite and show that, with a little sense on the part of the consumer and provider, some very reasonable targets are achievable. Yours faithfully, VICTOR PARSONS, DAVID TAUBE, Regional Renal Unit, Dulwich Hospital, East Dulwich Grove, SE22.

given lower allowances than married couples with children, and wage earners have lower tax thresholds than pensioners.

This is a factor in all the point-scoring exercise that ought to be given more weight than it regularly is. It really is not fair to say that only half of the beneficiaries of local services contribute directly.

An across-the-board levy is made for car tax or for TV licences. But people do not have to possess either a car or a television. They have a choice. But with no choice on a blanket tax on the whole adult population the effect on poorer members of society will be harder than on the richer. This is the unfairness that causes the church leaders to express their concern about the community charge proposals.

Yours faithfully, JAMES BARKING, Barking Lodge, 28A Connaught Avenue, Loughton, Essex.

of the processes involved and has demonstrated that he has identified the major hazard potential of his activities and provided appropriate controls. Yours faithfully, JOHN BOOTH (Emergency Planning Officer), Buckinghamshire County Council, County Hall, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, February 3.

Short in the tooth?

From Mr Thomas D. Jones Sir, In reply to the letter from Mr Henry Guly (February 4) I regularly hear stories of the fairies leaving £5 for the first tooth left under a pillow.

As this is substantially more than I have received for extracting the tooth, perhaps the doctors' and dentists' review bodies should send the fairies to negotiate with Mr Moore, or at least to indulge in pillow talk! Yours truly, THOMAS D. JONES, Penistone Dental Surgery, 54 High Street, Penistone, South Yorkshire, February 4.

Aiding disabled by computer

From Professor A. F. Newell

Sir, I wonder if any other readers noticed your interesting juxtaposition of reports on January 21. News about our research into ways to help non-speaking people converse was printed next to an article about the work of theoretical physicist, Professor Stephen Hawking.

Professor Hawking is a remarkable man, but the fact that he accomplishes all that he does with little or no speech and with very limited movement is quite astounding. Christopher Nolan's winning of the Whitbread prize (report and photograph, January 20) for a book typed out with his head-mounted stick is another recent example of the tremendous potential of disabled people.

Hawking and Nolan have managed to fight through the barriers with extraordinary determination. Others need more help and technology is one way of providing such help. The resources which are being applied to such applications of computer technology, however, are small and are mainly from charitable and State sources.

Digital Equipment Corporation, the Trustee Savings Bank and others provide some of the support for our work at Dundee. Perhaps the above examples will encourage the computer industry to invest more heavily in socially beneficial applications of computers, not entirely as an act of good will, but also to ensure a larger market for their products.

Yours sincerely, ALAN NEWELL (Director, Microcomputer Centre), The University of Dundee, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Dundee DD1 4HN, February 1.

ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 6 1849

Rumours of the Californian gold rush were not exaggerated. It was later established that 500 ships lay unmanoeuvred in San Francisco bay; soldiers deserted in droves; churches were empty; town councils ceased to sit; judges and criminal alike flocked to the foothills.

THE CALIFORNIAN GOLD FINDERS.

... The New York Herald introduces a highly interesting letter from a correspondent at Monterey, California, with the following surprising paragraph: "We have also received a private and confidential letter which contains intelligence so astounding concerning the gold regions that we forbear giving it to the public at this time lest they should not credit it..."

The Herald then goes on to declare that there were strong reasons for believing that Governor Mason and all his officers, men, mules, and wagons, were engaged digging on the banks of the Sacramento river. Colonel Stephenson had also disbanded his regiment, and gone on the like errand. This officer is said to have collected upwards of one million of dollars' worth of gold dust. The correspondent's letter, which is dated Monterey, November the 16th, is highly interesting...

... This I know, the Sandwich Islands, Oregon, and Lower California are fast parting with their inhabitants, all bound for this coast, and thence to the great 'place of the Sacramento valley, where the digging and washing of one man that does not produce 100 tiny ounces of gold, 23 carats, from the size of a half penny to one pound in one month, set the digger to prospecting, that is, looking for better grounds. Your 'Palomo' can point out many a man who has, for 15 to 20 days in succession, bagged up five to ten ounces of gold a day. The placer, or gold region, now extends over 300 or 400 miles of country, embracing all the creeks and branches on the east side of the river Sacramento and one side of the San Joaquin. In my travels I have, when resting under a tree and grazing my horse, seen pieces of pure gold taken from crevices of the rocks or slate where we were stopping... From the 1st of July to the 1st of October, more or less, one half of the people will have fever and ague, or intermittent fever. In the winter, it is too cold to work in the water. Some work in the sand by washing from the surface in a wooden bowl, or tin pan; some googe it out from the rocks or slate; the more they once roll about and pick up the large pieces, leaving the small gold for the next emigration. The extent of the gold region on the San Joaquin and Sacramento rivers extends a distance of 800 miles in length by 100 in width. It embraces not only gold, but quantities of quicksilver in almost general abundance. It is estimated that a small population actively engaged in mining in this region could export 100,000,000 dollars in gold in every year, and that an increased population might increase that amount to 300,000,000 dollars annually. You may believe me when I say that for some time to come California will export, yearly, nearly or quite 500,000 ounces of gold, 22 to 24 carats fine; some pieces of that will weigh 16lb, very many 1lb. Many men have begun last June to dig gold with a capital of \$50 can now show \$5,000 to \$15,000. I saw a man today making purchases of dry goods, &c., for his family, lay on the counter a big made of raw hide, well sewed up, containing 100 ounces. I observed, 'That is a good way to pack gold dust.' He very innocently replied, 'All the bags I brought down are that way; I like the size!' Five such bags in New York would bring nearly \$10,000. This man left his family last August. Three months digging and washing, producing four or five bags, of 100 ounces each, is better than being mate of a vessel at \$40 per month, as the man formerly was...



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 5. The Duke of York, President of the Royal Aero Club, this morning launched the 'Youth in the Air Year 1988' at the Royal Aeronautical Society, 4, Hamilton Place, London W1.

Captain James Fraser was in attendance.

Today is the thirty-sixth anniversary of the accession of The Queen.

The President of the United States celebrates his birthday today.

Birthdays

TODAY: Mr Claudio Arrau, pianist, 85; Rabbi Lionel Blue, author and broadcaster, 58; Sir Denis Buckley, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 82; Mr Peter Cadbury, company chairman, 70; Mr Leslie Crowther, comedian and actor, 55; Sir Robert Erskine-Hill, former chairman, Life Association of Scotland, 71; Mr Louis Heron, journalist, 69; Professor J.E. Hill, former master, Balliol College, Oxford, 76; Mr Patrick Macnee, actor, 62; Mr Denis Norden, scriptwriter and broadcaster, 66; Mr Manuel Orantes, 39; Lord Roskill, 77; Mr Jimmy Tarbuck, comedian, 48; Mr Fred Trueman, cricketer, 57; Mr Keith Waterhouse, writer, 59; Mr Billy Wright, footballer, 64.

TOMORROW: Mrs G.T. Banks, Registrar General for England and Wales, 84; Lord Bellwin, 65; Mrs Caroline Bingham, writer, 50; Lord Botsford, 81; Miss Dora Bryan, actress, 64; the Earl of Cork and Orrery, 78; Professor Sir Clifford Darby, geographer, 79; Mr Gerald Davies, rugby player, 43; the Earl of Harewood, 65; Mr Michael James, writer and nuclear energy adviser, 47; Lord Keith of Kinkel, 66; Sir John Leahy, diplomat, 60; Dr Barbara MacGibbon, pathologist, 60; Sir George Moseley, civil servant, 63; Mr G.J. Mulcahy, chairman, F.W. Woolworth, 46; Sir Philip Myers, former chief constable, North Wales Police, 57; Sir Geoffrey Peacock, former Remembrancer, City of London, 68; Sir Robert Reid, chairman, British Railways Board, 67; Mr John Ritchie, former Senior Master of the Supreme Court, 75; Mr R.W. Watson, former director-general, NFU, 62; Sir Brian Winder, radiologist and former vice-chancellor, London University, 84.

Latest wills

Latest wills include:
Sir Peter Brian Medawar, OM, CH, of London NW3, the outstanding scientist who won the Nobel Prize in 1960 for his research in tissue grafting, left estate valued at £377,820 net.
Mrs Fredora Caroline Mary Showering, of Shepton Mallet, Somerset, left estate valued at £4,769,712 net.
Mr Antony Dillwyn Peck, of Compion, Chichester, West Sussex, a former Under-Secretary to the Treasury, who fought a rear-guard action against the building of Concorde in opposition to the then Minister of Aviation, Julian Amery, left estate valued at £199,761 net.
Mr Austin Bruce McGee, of Wimbledon, London SW19, left estate valued at £2,361,687 net.

Today's royal engagement

The Princess Rugby, Patron of the Scottish Rugby Union, will attend the Scotland v France match at Murrayfield at 12.25.

Supper

Aldershot and District Soldiers' Association
The Lord Chancellor was the guest speaker at a supper given by the Aldershot and District Soldiers' Association last night at the Queens Hotel, Ramsgate, last night. Mr A.R. O'Dowd-Booth and Mr David Savage presided.

Luncheon

British Council
Sir David Orr, Chairman of the British Council, was host at a luncheon held yesterday at the Institute of Directors in honour of Engineer Hassanallah Mohammed El-Kafrawi, Egyptian Minister of Development. The Egyptian Ambassador was among the guests.

Press awards

Today is Newspaper of Year

Today is the Granada Television "What The Papers Say" newspaper of the year.

Duncan Campbell of the *New Statesman* was named investigative journalist of the year, and Terry Coleman of *The Guardian*, journalist of the year.

Other awards went to: Edward Pearce, columnist of the year; Alan John (*The Independent*), Gerald Barry Award for pictures; and Julie Flint (*The Guardian*) Foreign Reporter of the Year.

The awards have been made each year since the longest-running weekly programme on British television began in November, 1956.

They were presented at the Savoy Hotel today by Lord Decatur, former editor of the *Daily Telegraph*.

Presenter Mike Scott said of Mr Campbell: "He is a

What was it a preface to?

On Tuesday the General Synod of the Church of England will debate the *Crockford's Preface* affair. Here the author of the Preface to the 1985 Edition of *Crockford's* discusses the issues.

Now that the feelings which the most recent Preface to *Crockford's* aroused have been of their intensity, it is a good idea to attempt a creative discussion of some of the arguments of Dr Bennett and others about the state of Anglicanism.

It may be right for me to introduce this little series, to which a definite Catholic and a firm Evangelical will contribute, since I was the author of the Prefaces from 1975 to 1985. Those not very controversial (or interesting) essays were not really precedents, but I understood why Dr Bennett did not expect to be addressing the nation sensationally.

It was, I think, a mistake not to refuse to print his Preface unless he took a few sentences out. It was so likely that anonymous criticisms of Dr Runcie in what has become an official publication would lead to the row that followed, although no-one could have foreseen a suicide. The two lessons to be learned (again!) are that the media will pounce on public indiscretions which can sound amusingly provocative over coffee, and that there is something special about the position of Archbishop of Canterbury.

But the Archbishop's power is in the Papal. Dr Runcie has been influential because, in addition to his position, and the virtues to which the 1987 Preface paid tribute, he has articulated what was already felt widely in the Church — combining bold clarity on some issues (war and the neglect of the underclass are examples) with a degree of hesitation over others (such as women priests or active homosexuals or miracles). Despite suggestions, it is not the case that Anglicans would have followed tamely had he been decisive about everything.

Criticism of the international Lambeth Conference of bishops or the Church of England's own General Synod can also be unfair if it forgets that those bodies, too, have a strictly limited authority. The 1987 Preface, which expected little from the conference, was

unrealistic in reviving the notion that a smaller council, including clergy and laity, might be turned into an Anglican Vatican.

In England, the General Synod has more authority on paper, but it represents the regular church-goers of a Church which contains many who resist proposed "progress" on Catholic, Evangelical or simply conservative grounds. Since a vote approaching a consensus is rightly required on important controversial questions, debates quite often result in deadlocks — which means that enthusiasts for change or for tradition are tempted to borrow certain tactics from secular politics.

Few members of the Church of England would be happy to solve this problem by concentrating power in the hands of a "cabinet" elected by the synod. Most clergy and laity do not want to go back to the Roman Catholic model of bishops-only government, but are equally unwilling to see their bishops eclipsed by synods or appointed to provide extra platforms for groups in the synods.

This dispersal of authority within the Church naturally causes much irritation (to be seen in the Preface), but one reason it has become the Anglican tradition is that it accords with the deep conviction that religious authority for Christians is itself dispersed. The Bible's message is the Word of God — but we have to discern what that is. There is no single source of authority to guide us. God has given us many lights, sometimes confusing, but always enough if we want to walk the distance required of us.

Ever since the Reformation there have been tensions as one authority or another was stressed and balanced. Dr Bennett knew this well, but his nerve seems to have failed him as he contemplated the speed of change, or at any rate, of challenge, in our own time. I sympathize with his inclination to nostalgia for a more orderly Church, but, in fact, the history of the Church of England never exhibits uniformity, except when this was imposed by a government for essentially political purposes.

Diversity seems inevitable nowadays as tough questions, often new, are

confronted. The question "how sinful is suicide?" is an issue where there has been some development of thinking, despite many very understandable preferences for the old black-and-white picture. I do think that here, as elsewhere, most of us have learned that it is necessary to be compassionate because we are Christian.

Diversity is not surprising when Christians are asked about women priests. We cannot simply turn to the New Testament, where women are so clearly subordinate and "priests" are unknown. We cannot simply rely on the Church's tradition, because the Church is divided into denominations, of which Anglicanism is now one, with its own duty to discern the will of God in our time. A decision seems inescapable, and I expect it to be favourable, with great care to protect conscientious dissenters and a small (although very sad) Anglo-Catholic walkout.

What holds Anglicans together? Worship — the Book of Common Prayer in the old days and still today a clear pattern (to which that Preface did not do justice): Bible-based, Eucharist-centred, corporate and dignified with, however, scope for a preacher's truth-through-personality, and for the informality of the "family" or "special" service.

And dialogue unites. Communion with our bishops (who belong exclusively to no party or locality) and with each other means, or should mean, not only a friendly courtesy, but also the sharing of insights. May 1988 be a year of energetic inter-Anglican dialogue!

I mean by that, as examples: a dialogue between Conservative and Left-wing thinkers about society; a dialogue about belief with Evangelicals (and I have written a dialogue in a book on Essentials jointly with John Scott to be published in May); and spiritual and theological meetings at leisure between the advocates and the opponents of women priests — not only in the Lambeth Conference and not only within the confines of the General Synod's debates and votes.

David Edwards is Provost of Southwark.



Lord Caithness launches a mallard named Malcolm into flight at Slimbridge Wildfowl Trust, watched by Sir Peter Scott.

Opera House decision on Monday

The High Court will rule on Monday on an attempt to block the £100 million Royal Opera House redevelopment scheme to build offices and shops in the Covent Garden conservation area.

Mr Justice Webster has been asked by the Covent Garden Community Association to quash Westminster City Council's decision last June to approve the scheme.

The scheme, drawn up to fund modernization and extension of the Royal Opera House, involves the demolition of listed buildings and others of historical interest.

The community association alleged that council planners abused their powers and "bent" the rules.

The council argued that the scheme was a "special case" and its approval was in line with planning policy.

The judge said yesterday he would give judgment not before 3pm on Monday.

Slimbridge Trust wins new award

The riverside grounds where Sir Peter Scott founded his Wildfowl Trust 40 years ago were named yesterday as a "site of international importance".

Lord Caithness, Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, made the announcement during a visit to the trust grounds at Slimbridge, Gloucestershire.

The Earl, who has only been with the Environment Ministry for three weeks, also adopted a wild mallard duck — and named it Malcolm, after himself.

Malcolm was one of three mallards he released into the wild after they had been ringed in studies of migration.

Lord Caithness said the 1,357 hectares of trust grounds at Slimbridge were Britain's 3rd site of international importance under the convention winners in the City and Guilds Woodworking and Mechanical Engineering examinations for 1987.

Turners' Company

At the annual Awards Court held yesterday in Apollonia Hall, the Master of the Turners' Company, Major-General Sir Leonard Atkinson, welcomed Sir Francis Tombs, Chairman of the Engineering Council, who presented medals and prizes to the six winners in the Turners' Engineering Design Competition and the Turner Craft winners in the City and Guilds Woodworking and Mechanical Engineering examinations for 1987.

Appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr John Anderson, at present Lower Master of Eton College, to be Director of the Joint Educational Trust from 1 May.

Mr R.H.B. Neame, a Kent county councillor, to be Chairman of the Local Government International Bureau for the United Kingdom.

Mr David Pender, who is on secondment from ICI Chemicals and Polymers, to be Environmental Protection Technology Adviser.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr L.C. Denchar and **Señorita E. Lopez Guerrero**
The engagement is announced between the late Dr Dennis Denchar and Mrs Daphne Barnack, of London, and Elena, youngest daughter of Señor and Señora Lopez Guerrero, of Zamora, Spain.

Mr G.B. Ellis and **Miss J.C. Hill**
The engagement is announced between Guy, son of Dr and Mrs F.B. Ellis, of Wantage, Oxfordshire, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.H.C. Hill, of Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Dr C.J.P. Farth and **Miss J.H. Johnson**
The engagement is announced between Patrick, younger son of Mr and Mrs C. Farth, of Harare, Zimbabwe, and Julie, eldest daughter of Mr D.K. Johnson and Mrs E.M. Brown.

Mr A.R. Ratne and **Miss J.M. Royson**
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of the late Mr Maurice Ratne, of Salisbury, and Jacqueline, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Gavin Royson, of Windsor.

Mr G.A. Harrison-Hall and **Miss E. Winder**
The engagement is announced between Giles, elder son of Judge and Mrs Michael Harrison-Hall, of Bedford, and Elizabeth, daughter of the late Mr Frank Winder and Mrs Mary Winder, of Gravesend, Kent.

Mr C.J. Kewala and **Miss C.S. Hillis**
The engagement is announced between Cyrus, younger son of Dr and Mrs J.J. Kewala, of Beaumont, Kent, and Cathryn, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs M.J. Hillis, of North Mundham, Sussex.

Mr A. Kopeck and **Miss S.K. Cox**
The engagement is announced between Andrzej, youngest son of Mrs Jadwiga Kopeck, 24 Brookhill Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, and Susan Katherine Cox, daughter of Dr and Mrs Eric Cox, Upper Woodthorpe, Berkshire.

Mr T.C. Small and **Miss A.B. Williams**
The engagement is announced between Tim, only son of Mr and Mrs R.E. Small, of Corfe House, Taunton, Somerset, and Annabel, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs J.R. Williams, of Kew Park Jamaica, West Indies.

Mr J. Sutherland and **Miss H. Gray**
The marriage took place on Wednesday, January 20, between Mr John Sutherland, of Rose, Bedfordshire, and Miss Heather Gray, of Langley Mill, Lancashire, Co Durham.

A reception was held at Wellington Barracks and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

OBITUARY

SIR OVE ARUP

Engineer with an architect's flair



Sir Ove Arup, CBE, senior partner of Ove Arup and Partners, Consulting Engineers, died yesterday in London at the age of 92.

Of Danish origin, he spent nearly all his working life in Britain, and though he was a civil engineer, not an architect, he made a greater contribution to the development of modern architecture here than all but a handful of professional architects.

Arup specialized all his life in reinforced concrete structures and was a man of very wide experience both as contractor (up to 1949) and as a consulting engineer.

He showed an unusual flair for working closely with architects. Unlike many structural engineers he understood and appreciated their aims, and was able to help them to realize their most imaginative conceptions.

Ove Nyquist Arup was born at Newcastle-upon-Tyne on April 16, 1895 the son of Jens Simon Nyquist Arup and Mathilde B. Nyquist. He went to school in Hamburg and Copenhagen where he studied philosophy and mathematics at the University and took a degree in engineering at the Royal Technical College in 1922.

He became designer to the Danish reinforced concrete engineering firm of Christiani and Nielsen, working for them first in Hamburg and then for their English company in London, where he was subsequently chief designer of J.L. Keir and Co.

He became director of this company and of a number of other London engineering firms including that of Arup and Arup Ltd, which he founded with a cousin. During the war he worked for the Air Ministry and in 1949 he set up in private practice as a consulting engineer.

In the 1930s he had been closely associated with some

of the pioneers of the modern style of architecture in Britain, such as Tecton, and subsequently with many of the most important modern buildings in many parts of the world. Among the notable buildings for which he was consultant was the Sydney Opera House.

The firm, Ove Arup and Partners, of which he was the head grew to a great size and many of the firm's activities were inevitably not in his direct control. But its work maintained the high reputation he had created for it, and Arup himself was always prepared to give his personal attention to any problem.

When he chose to make some structure his firm had been asked to design into a personal task (as in the case of the footbridge over the River Wear by Durham Cathedral, built in 1967) he showed that his technical powers and his aesthetic judgement remained at their very highest.

Besides his large London office, Ove Arup and Partners, had several other offices in the British Isles and a dozen overseas, in Africa, Asia and Australia.

In 1963 Arup formed with Philip (now Sir Philip) Dawson, the architect, an integrated architectural-engineering firm, Arup Associates, which has been

responsible for some distinguished university buildings, notably at Oxford and Cambridge; for the conversion of the maltings at Snape, Suffolk, into a concert hall; and for a number of outstanding industrial buildings.

In 1953 he was a visiting lecturer at Harvard University.

Arup was made CBE in 1953 and knighted in 1971. In 1966 he was awarded the Royal Gold Medal of the RIBA, and in 1973 the Gold Medal of the Society of Structural Engineers. He was given honorary degrees by a number of British and overseas universities.

Arup had a charming and amusing personality. His conversation, delightfully incoherent though it was (he had a reputation of being almost incapable of concluding a sentence), revealed shrewd and penetrating ideas, and he had immense enthusiasm for the arts generally as well as for architecture and was especially knowledgeable about music.

He was highly sociable, and enjoyed entertaining his friends for hours at a time, at the piano or with his accordion, always with a cigar in his mouth. Though he lived in England for so long, he never lost his strong Danish accent.

The pleasure his friends took in his company was reinforced by their knowledge of his passionate concern for good engineering and architecture and his unswerving willingness to put his talents at the disposal of these and similar causes. He had always said that he would rather be a first rate engineer than a second rate architect.

Arup liked to think that he had never really retired, and he was coming into his office two or three days a week, until quite recently.

In 1925 he married Ruth Sørensen. They had a son and two daughters.

EMERIC PRESSBURGER



Emeric Pressburger, the writer and film producer, died yesterday, at the age of 85.

He was best known for his collaboration with Michael Powell, which extended over 16 films and was responsible for some of the British cinema's most ambitious and original works. Indeed, with Powell (and Orson Welles, Marcel Carné and Savoyant Ray) Pressburger was invited to become one of the first Fellows of the British Film Institute, in 1983, in acknowledgement of a distinctive contribution to British cinema.

The Powell-Pressburger films had an exuberant, flamboyant quality unusual for British studios and in marked contrast to the near-sterile literary adaptations of contemporaries like Lean and Asquith. Sometimes extravagance went too far but even the team's failures were highly watchable.

In 1942 Powell and Pressburger formed their own production company, The Archers; its trade-mark, shown at the beginning of each film, was an arrow thudding into a target. Though the team took joint credits for producing, directing and script, Pressburger's main contribution was as a writer and originator of screen subjects, and the more off-beat moments in the films can often be attributed to his Central European outlook.

He was born Imre Pressburger in northern Hungary on December 5, 1902, and showed an early talent for mathematics and music. He studied civil engineering at Prague University and at Stuttgart but his father's death forced him to abandon his studies.

Since his homeland had, after the First World War, become part of Romania, he decided to stay in Germany. Settling in Berlin, he became a writer, selling short stories to

newspapers and film studios to the leading German film company, Ufa.

In 1930 he became a contract writer at the Ufa studio and worked with rising young directors like Robert Siodmak and Max Opfuss. After Hitler's accession to power, Pressburger moved first to France and then to Britain where he arrived, on a stateless passport, in 1935.

He joined Alexander Korda's London Films and was introduced by Korda to Powell. Their first film together, *The Spy in Black*, was devised for the German actor, Conrad Veidt.

Veidt also starred in the next Powell-Pressburger film, *Contraband*, but a more substantial work was *49th Parallel* based on an original Pressburger story about Nazis on the run in wartime Canada. From this grew the not dissimilar theme of *One of Our Aircraft is Missing*, which dealt with the fate of British airmen forced to bale out in occupied Holland.

The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp, the first film of the newly formed Archers company, ran into political controversy. The Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, regarded the script as giving too defeatist a view of the British

soldier and Laurence Olivier was prevented from taking the name part (suggested by David Low's cartoon character).

More controversy surrounded *A Canterbury Tale*, which attracted charges of bad taste. *I Know Where I'm Going* had yet another original Pressburger script, written in only four days, and was a story of love triumphing over money set largely in the Western Isles.

The Red Shoes (1948) marked the peak of the Powell-Pressburger partnership; expensive and colourful, with a complete ballet performed by Robert Helpmann, Moira Shearer and others, it was a tremendous commercial success and particularly popular in the United States.

Some of the same team were reassembled for another lavish spectacle, *The Tales of Hoffman*, but a second operatic excursion, *Oh Rosalinda* which attempted to transpose the *Die Fledermaus* of Johann Strauss to 1950s Vienna, was less happy.

After two solid, but somewhat conventional war pictures, *The Battle of The River Plate* and *11 Men By Moonlight*, the Archers were amicably disbanded. Powell and Pressburger remained close friends and in 1972 worked together on a children's film, *The Boy Who Turned Yellow*.

Apart from his films with Powell, Pressburger wrote and directed *Twice Upon A Time* and wrote and produced *Miracle In Soho*. During the 1960s he published two novels, *Killing A Mouse On Sunday* and *The Glass Pearl*; the first was filmed by Fred Zinnemann as *Behold A Pale Horse*.

Pressburger shunned publicity and strenuously avoided giving interviews. But among friends he will be remembered for his warmth of personality, and for his dry wit.

PROFESSOR ARTHUR RAMSAY

Professor Arthur Ramsay, MBE, FRS, who was found dead with his wife, Helen, yesterday, was one of the outstanding experimental biologists of his time. He was 78.

He bridged the gap between the zoologists who know their way throughout the entire animal kingdom and the experimentalists who illuminate specialized problems by the use of the most advanced techniques.

James Arthur Ramsay was born in September, 1909, and educated at Fettes College, and Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, where he took a double first in Natural Sciences.

On obtaining his PhD in 1934 he was elected to a Fellowship at Queens'. He also acted as director of Studies in Zoology and for many years as Steward.

Ramsay was an exceptionally fine teacher. His two books, *A Physiological Approach to the Lower Animals*, written for the sixth former, and *The Experimental Basis of Modern Biology*, for the

first year undergraduate, are so vivid, so lucid and so intellectually honest that biologists at any level of experience can benefit from reading them.

In 1939 Ramsay was one of the group of brilliant young biologists who were recruited to man the radar defences, and served with the rank of Major, RA, until 1945, being appointed MBE.

After his return to Cambridge he became, in 1952, joint editor of the *Journal of Experimental Biology*, which enjoyed the benefit of his sound judgement and editorial skill for many years.

He was Reader in comparative physiology in 1959 and Professor ten years later.

But Ramsay's real claim to distinction lies in his published researches. His observations on transpiration through the cuticle are fundamental to our knowledge of waterproofing in the insect.

His work on osmotic regulation in aquatic animals and on

ionic exchanges in the excretory system of insects and other invertebrates was informed by a thorough grasp of thermodynamics, and the great advances which he achieved were made possible by the design of ingenious new techniques which demanded extreme delicacy in manipulation.

His cryoscopic method for osmotic pressure has proved invaluable, and he devised a flame photometer for sodium and potassium at a time when he had to construct his own equipment.

Ramsay published his findings in a series of lucid and now classic papers, but took not the slightest interest in gaining wider publicity for them.

He was elected FRS in 1955.

In his early days Ramsay's recreations were mountaineering and skiing; it was on his trips to Norway that he met his wife Helen Amelia, daughter of Oscar Dickson of Stockholm.

They had a son and a daughter.

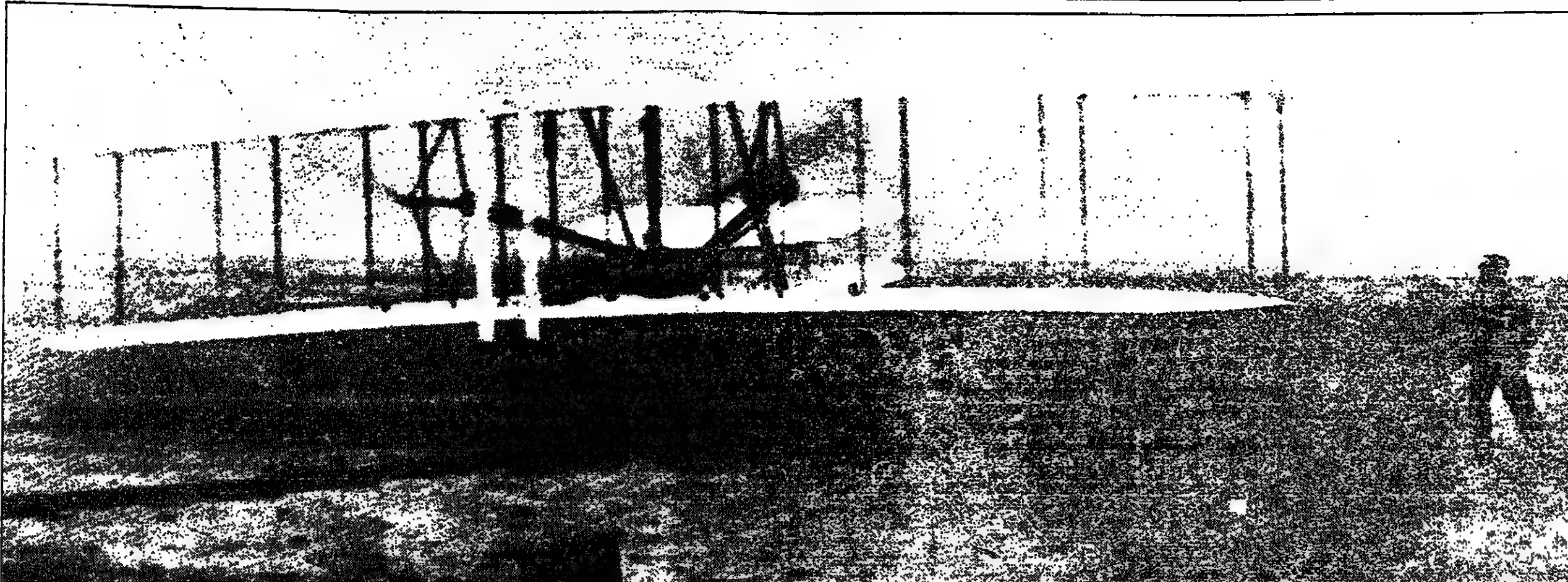
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February 6-12, 1988

SATURDAY

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

SUCCESS: FOUR FLIGHTS THURSDAY MORNING ALL AGAINST TWENTY ONE MILE WIND STARTED FROM LEVEL WITH ENGINE POWER ALONE
AVERAGE SPEED THROUGH AIR THIRTY ONE MILES LONGEST 57 SECONDS INFORM PRESS HOME # # # CHRISTMAS OREVELLE WRIGHT



The start of the first successful aeroplane flight, December 17, 1903: Orville lies on the lower wing, Wilbur runs alongside. The photograph, taken by a coastguard, was typical of the brothers' meticulous planning. Top: how the world learnt of their feat

The day the world took flight

The new propeller shafts were installed on the Flyer on Saturday morning, December 12, the day after Orville returned to Kill Devil Hills. The machine was rolled out of the shed and placed on the starting track that afternoon, but the wind was too light to risk taking off from the level ground. The wind freshened the next day, but in deference to their father, a bishop, they neither worked on the machine nor attempted to fly on Sundays.

The wind on Monday, December 14, was again not strong enough for taking off from the level. The Wright brothers were determined to make a flight, however, and decided to move the starting rail and the machine to Big Hill for a downhill start. The rail was a wooden track, made in sections; along it ran a small truck, holding a 6ft plank on which the Flyer's skids rested on takeoff. Big Hill, 100ft high, was the largest of the three sand dunes of Kill Devil Hills.

At half past one they ran up a pre-arranged signal on a pole at one end of the Flyer's shed, where it would be visible to the men at the Kill Devil coastguard station. Not wanting to make a flight without witnesses, they had extended a blanket invitation in advance to everyone within a radius of six miles of their camp, including all the inhabitants of

Kitty Hawk, the few year-round residents of Nags Head, and the fishermen in isolated cottages in between the two villages.

Shortly after putting out the signal, they were joined by five men from the coastguard station, two small boys, and a dog. The men helped to move the heavy Flyer the quarter of a mile to Big Hill, balancing it by hand while rolling it along the rail, moving each 15ft section of the track from the rear to the front as they went along. The entire 60ft of track was then laid on the hillside on a gentle slope of about nine degrees, and the Flyer was placed in position at the top. Before starting the motor, a photograph was taken of the machine, with four of the men, the two boys, and the dog lined up alongside. When the propellers were turned over, their noisy paddling and the clatter of the transmission chains made such a terrifying addition to the motor's racket that the dog and the two small boys promptly took to their heels.

Wilbur and Orville tossed a coin for first whack. Wilbur won. He lay down on the lower wing with his hips in the padded wing-warrior cradle, while Orville made a last-minute adjustment to the motor. When everything was ready, the rope was slipped free, and Orville ran beside the machine, balancing it with one hand.

In December, 1903, Wilbur Wright, aged 36, and his brother Orville, 32, were about to make history with their flying machine near Kill Devil Hills, three sand dunes on a North Carolina beach. Fred Howard takes up the story

In the other hand he held a stopwatch, which he started as the Flyer lifted from the rail.

Wilbur turned the big front rudder up sharply, not realizing how sensitive it would be in flight. The Flyer surged quickly upward until it was almost 15ft above the hillside, losing headway as it climbed. Before Wilbur could turn the rudder down again, the Flyer began to sink to the ground in a nose-up position. In the excitement, he forgot to shut off the motor. The left wing hit the side of the hill, and the machine slewed around, digging the skids deep into the sand, breaking one of them, and splintering a strut, a brace, and a spar in the front rudder. It was all over in three and a half seconds.

Although the Flyer had travelled more than 100ft, the Wright brothers did not consider this a true flight. All the same, they were elated. The test had proved four important things about the untamed Flyer. Its strength in flight was satisfactory, the motor was reliable, the power sufficient, and the launching system both safe and practical. There was now no question of final success.

Wilbur and Orville worked all day Tuesday on repairs and completed the work at noon on Wednesday. The wind was at last strong enough for a start from level, so they laid the track in the sand near the Flyer's shed and took out the machine. By then the wind had dropped, but during the early hours of Thursday, December 17, it rose once more. By dawn the puddles and ponds left in the hollows around the camp by the recent rains were encrusted with ice.

After breakfast, Wilbur and Orville went outside and measured the wind with their hand-held anemometer. It was not quite gale strength, a cold, gusty north wind from 22 to 27 miles per hour. They went back indoors to wait for the wind to slacken, but at no time that morning did it drop below 20 miles per hour. With their minds set on being home by Christmas, they decided to go ahead. At 10am they hung out the signal for the men in the coastguard station.

While they were laying the starting rail, three men from the station showed up — John Daniels, described by Orville as a giant in stature and strength; Will Dough, who had been present at Wilbur's abortive flight on Monday; and Adam Etheridge. A fourth coastguard, Bob Westcott, had been left in charge of the station back on the beach. He went up the station house tower and trained a spyglass on the Wright camp.

Accompanying the coastguards to the Wright camp were W.D. Brinkley, a lumber buyer from Manteo, who was investigating the possibility of salvaging lumber from one of the recent wrecks off the coast, and Johnny Moore, a teenager from Nags Head. The men helped them set the machine on the track. Then the motor was started and given a chance to warm up.

It was Orville's whack now. He lay down with his hips in the padded cradle and the toes of his shoes hooked over the small supporting rack on the trailing edge of the wing. He had no goggles. Both he and Wilbur that morning wore the business suits — starched collars, neckties and caps — familiar to the customers in their bicycle shop in Dayton, Ohio.

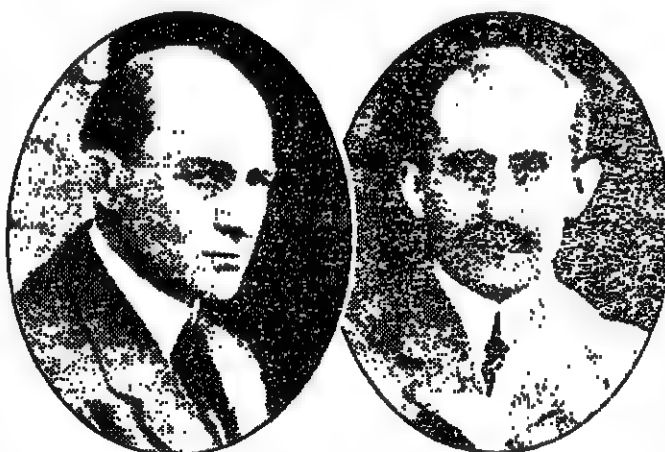
At 10.35 Orville slipped the rope restraining the Flyer. It started slowly down the track, Wilbur holding the right wing-tip to balance it on the rail. He had no trouble keeping up as the Flyer rolled down the track against a wind of more than 20 miles an hour. The Flyer's speed through the air when it reached the end of the track was close to 30 miles per hour, but its speed over the ground was only about 7 miles per hour, making it possible to record the start of the flight on one of the slow photographic plates of 1903. Orville had set the camera on his tripod before the flight, focusing

suddenly for the ground. One of these downward darts ended the first flight about 100ft from the end of the starting track, or about 120ft from the point where it had risen from the rail. The impact cracked one of the skids and set the stopwatch on the light-recording instrument back to zero. Wilbur, in the excitement of the moment, forgot to stop the stopwatch in his hand, so the time of the flight had to be estimated. They made it 12 seconds.

The true import of those few seconds in the air, compared with all other flights made before 10.35 am, December 17, 1903, has nowhere been expressed as accurately and concisely as in Orville's 1913 article in *Flying* magazine, in which he described the flight as: *The first in history of the world in which a machine carrying a man had raised itself by its own power into the air in full flight, had sailed forward without reduction of speed, and had finally landed at a point as high as that from which it had started.*

The witnesses of the flight helped Wilbur and Orville carry the machine back to the starting track, where repairs were made to the cracked skid. Then all six men and Johnny Moore went inside the camp building to warm up.

The Flyer's noisy motor was started again at 11.20, and Wilbur took off on the second flight of the day. He too had trouble with the large front rudder, and his flight, like Orville's, was an



The aviation pioneers: Wilbur (left) and Orville Wright in 1910

As the machine lifted into the air and the truck dropped away, the coastguard squeezed the bulb

the centre of the ground glass on a point just short of the end of the track. Before taking his place on the Flyer, he had entrusted the rubber bulb that activated the shutter to the large hand of John Daniels.

As the clattering machine lifted into the air and the wooden truck under its skids dropped away in the sand, the coastguard squeezed the bulb. The shutter opened and snapped shut, trapping inside the black bellows of the camera one of the great moments of this century.

It would be several days before the first print made from the small glass-plate negative would emerge from its bath of developer in the red-lit darkroom behind the house on Hawthorn Street in Dayton. When it did, it would reveal a photograph of accidental excellence; but Orville was too busy that December morning to worry about it. Like Wilbur on December 14, he was finding that the big two-surfaced front rudder, turned sharply upward at the moment of takeoff, was difficult to manipulate. The Flyer would rise until it was about 10ft in the air and then, when the rudder was reversed,

strong wind had never been more than 10 miles an hour, so Wilbur was not thrown from the machine, but the front rudder frame was badly smashed.

The times and distances of the first three flights had only been estimated. The fourth flight was carefully measured — 852ft in 59 seconds. The station men helped the Wrights carry the machine back to the camp and set it down outside the shed. As they stood a few feet away, talking over the flight, a powerful gust got under the wings of the Flyer and flipped it over.

The men rushed to hold it down. Wilbur grabbed the up-rights in front, but the wind threatened to carry his slight frame away with the machine and he let the wooden struts slip through his fingers. Orville and John Daniels grabbed the rear up-rights. Orville had to let go, but Daniels retained his grip and was carried along inside the Flyer, entangled in the rigging wires. As Orville described it later, the large

coastguard was shaken about like a rattle in a box until the Flyer finally came to a stop and he rolled out on the sand, scared but sound.

The damage to the Flyer was more serious. Almost all the ribs of both wings were broken beyond the rear spars. One spar and a number of uprights were splintered. The legs of the engine frame had all snapped off, and the chain guides were badly bent. There would be no more flights in the 1903 Flyer.

After lunch Wilbur and Orville set off on the windy four-mile walk to Kitty Hawk to send a telegram to their father: "Success four flights Thursday morning... inform press...". The words were slightly garbled by the time it arrived. The flight had shrunk to 57 seconds. Orville's name was misspelled. But there was no mistaking the message.

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Wide open slopes and good snow: a group of learners make their way down to Obergurgl

A great escape

It was a glorious sunny evening. The slopes were wide and gentle, and the five of us who were skiing together that week in Obergurgl were at the top of our form, floating down the valley on a tide of exhilaration.

Those of us who dislike the macho label too often attached to skiing, with all the boasting and bravado about black runs and off-piste, prefer to think of it simply as a superlative form of escapism. That late run, swooping down the miles of silent, empty slopes, came as close to bliss as anything I have experienced.

My first, and only previous, glimpse of Obergurgl had been a quarter of a century earlier on a day trip from nearby Sölden, further down the famous Ötztal valley. All I could remember were a pretty collection of buildings, a blizzard, and a chairlift disappearing into the mountain fog.

But last March, in a week where barely so much as a wisp of cloud interrupted the sunshine, we were able to take

John Young gets away from it all at Obergurgl

in the great snowfalls of Obergurgl and its neighbour, Hochgurgl, in all their glory. We were also able to spend a couple of days in the rather larger and more crowded Sölden-Hochsölden complex.

All four resorts offer similar skiing - wide open slopes with relatively few trees except in the lower reaches. The highest point is above 10,000 feet, and good high season and late season snow can virtually be guaranteed. But I suspect that in a "white-out" many of the slopes would be unskiable because there are so few trees or other reference points.

One drawback is the extraordinary parochialism of so many Austrian villages, which would be endearing if it were also not inconvenient. There is, for example, no lift linking Obergurgl and Hochgurgl, so you have to take a bus shuttle instead. Officially there are plans for a new lift within the next few years, if the money is available, but local sceptics doubt if the will is really there.

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TRAVEL NEWS

Executive treatment

British Airways' most valued passengers, the 1,000 people who make weekly first class or Concorde flights, have been awarded a new range of priority services. Global recognition and a behind-the-scenes range of path-smoothing services are the reward for those whose annual ticket bill tops £70,000 a year.

Premier customers will be recognized by name through a database in New York. Automatically generated telex will alert airport staff to the arrival of priority passengers.

Aer Lingus has undercut Virgin Atlantic Airways on the Dublin route with a new £57 Superflex return fare from Gatwick or Heathrow. Virgin flies from Luton for £29 each way. Aer Lingus (01-437 8000).

Savings of up to £30 on French Motorail bookings are offered by Railways (0772 741800). The Preston-based company gives the discount in the form of vouchers which are offset against the cost of sleeper or couchette accommodation on the train. Free Mondial vehicle insurance for up to 31 days is included. Motorail prices, inclusive of ferry crossing, start at £170 for Boulogne to Brive (gateway for the Dordogne) for a car and one driver.

On the right track

Seeing America through the tinted windows of a Greyhound bus is still one of the cheapest ways of covering the country. Now, for the first time, the company's American Express is priced in Sterling. A seven-day pass costs £65, 15 days £95, and 30 days £140. (01-339 5591)

Sterling service

The UK telephone number for Blandings, the anti-castle people mentioned in this column last week, should have been 0453 882544.

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TRAVEL BOOKS

German insight
Insight Guides have a knack of illustrating life's rich pattern in the countries covered, and its new guide to Germany is no exception. The sights and sounds of Germany are displayed against a background of palatially presented history, ancient and modern. *Insight Guides Germany* (£9.95) is a colourful primer and will certainly whet appetites.

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Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL 2

In the middle of Lake Como, Peter Stothard found an island and a menu that seem immune to change

Where old romantics go...

There is only one island on Lake Como. There is only one restaurant on that island. There is only one meal to be had at that restaurant - the six courses which have been served there every summer day since 1947.

Business begins simply with a half tomato. Upon it lies a wafer of lemon, oil and oregano like a piece of gauze over a wound; the waiter is politely insistent that the two should be eaten without being parted.

Then come eight bowls of vegetables on a side table, celery, baked peppers, onions baked and half-cooked, carrots in oil, french beans, cauliflower and baby marrow. With them are plates of local smoked beef and ham.

A pink trout appears - with a man who destroys a lemon over its back like a conjuror. Then a crushed chicken is drawn from a hot iron pot, followed (not too closely) by scented vanilla ice cream and (somewhat closer) by the host, dressed in turtleneck waistcoat and woollen hat, mixing coffee from a brandy bottle and loudly exhorting the guests who have held his island since Como was a fief of the far Adriatic Sea.

There is one white wine for it all and one price of £25 per head. Nothing needs be done, nothing done but to look out over Italy's most leisurely lake, whose depth is legendary, whose waters are correspondingly sluggish and whose air - even on cool days - feels as thick as cloud.

Visitors come to the island of Comacina from all over the world. It has a particular attraction for Belgians since their king held it among his domains during the First World War. But in most respects Como is northern Italy's English lake. The English built the finest family holiday houses which occupy the narrow inhabitable strip between water and mountainside. Before the villa owners left, at the outbreak of the Second World War, they had even built Italy's first golf course.

Once Mussolini was dead, shot in mysterious circumstances just north of Comacina, the English began to return. They came - and they still come - to the tiny town of Bellagio, 20 minutes away by boat, tucked on the peninsula between the lake's two great legs. The luckiest of



Standing still: the tiny town of Bellagio on Lake Como and, right, an old postcard of the Grand Hotel Villa Serbelloni

them stay at one of Europe's finest hotels, which dominates the Bellagio lakeside. Whether one can occupy the Grand Hotel Villa Serbelloni for the full season (some do, we are told) or for a fullish weekend (as we did), a very special leisure is to be had.

The hotel takes its cumbersome name from the villa which stands a few hundred yards inshore on a site once occupied by a home of the Roman philanthropist and letter-writer, Pliny the Younger. In what seems almost a ritual, confused visitors come to the hotel every morning for the tour of the villa; mistaken travellers arrive at the villa gates in the evening in search of the hotel.

Those who do eventually find the villa can enjoy a steep climb among splendid gardens, although the house is now a home for the Rockefeller Foundation and has fallen somewhat from grace. During a guided tour that is predominantly horticultural, they will be reminded that Giuseppe Parini, the independent poet of Napoleonic Italy, was once sacked from a job as a tutor here. He took his revenge upon the Serbelloni family by publishing their sexual peccadilloes and can thus be claimed as father of the nanny-tells-all school of journalism. Somewhat higher claims, somewhat less inter-

estingly, are made on behalf of Pliny.

Today, both writers would find more to engage their wits and talents at the hotel than at the villa. The benefits of being old and rich (though not perhaps as great as they were in the early 19th-century) are more visible here than among the Rockefeller-aided students.

A terrace bar and restaurant runs along the biscuit-coloured, baroque frontage. Before it is a beach with palm trees. Just outside its gates is a rectangular promenade with lesser hotels and little shops.

Top-of-the-range hire cars line up in the park at the rear (most visitors seem to drive from Milan airport). Private motor boats ply for trade. There are the public paddle steamers too, formidable competition for the small men, efficient, comfortable and with a record for running on time which even the Duke would have found satisfactory.

But the Serbelloni guests seem rarely to move. They like to watch the water flow slowly in front of them - as though it were some giant executive toy, a captured rolling liquid three-fifths of oil and two-fifths of ink.

They like to eat the fat lake fish. Without culinary expertise, these can be soft and tasteless, as though they had been cooked before being

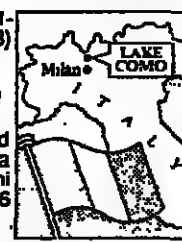
caught; but the Serbelloni diners need have no such worries.

They like to stare for hours at the strips of mist which thread between the mountains, shrouding those that are far away and silhouetting the peaks immediately above the lakeside. This is where old romantics come to live.

Anyone with the energy to consult the Serbelloni guide book will find that by this lake Alessandro Volta was born in 1745. To read that the man who gave his name to voltage was a son of Lake Como is one of life's gentle paradoxes. It is as if one were told that Mother Theresa was born in Miami. Like much of the magic of Bellagio, once one has turned for home, it is hard to believe.

TRAVEL NOTES

Citalia (01-686 5533) offers seven days half board at the Grand Hotel Villa Serbelloni from £786 per person, inclusive of scheduled executive class flights, and transfer to the resort by car. The holiday is from the company's Golden Choice range. A lake view is £7.20 per night extra. Seven days' Avis car hire, booked through Citalia, costs from £174, inclusive of insurance.



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PIED PIPER MUSICAL STORIES: Primarily for children aged 5 to 10, stories set to music by Terry Trower and narrated by Crackerjack's Jan Hunt. Songs and songs in which the audience may join. Purcell Room, Royal Festival Hall, South Bank (01-928 3191). Tomorrow 3.15pm. Tickets £3.50.

VIKING FESTIVAL EVENTS: Celebrations continue today

with a Viking longship race on the River Ouse at 11am. There will be a Viking Feast at the Merchant Adventurers' Hall this evening at 7pm (free wine included). York. Details (0904 646411). Tickets for feast £17.50

HORNIMAN FAMILY LECTURE: Dr Mick Gidley, from the Centre for American and Commonwealth arts studies at Exeter University, chairs a special exhibition, *A Vision of American Indians*, about the photography of Edward S. Curtis (1896-1952). Horniman Museum, London Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 (01-689 2336). Today 3.30pm. Free.

COMIC MART: Sale of comic books and related material. Central Hall, Westminster, London SW1. Today, noon-4.30pm. Free.

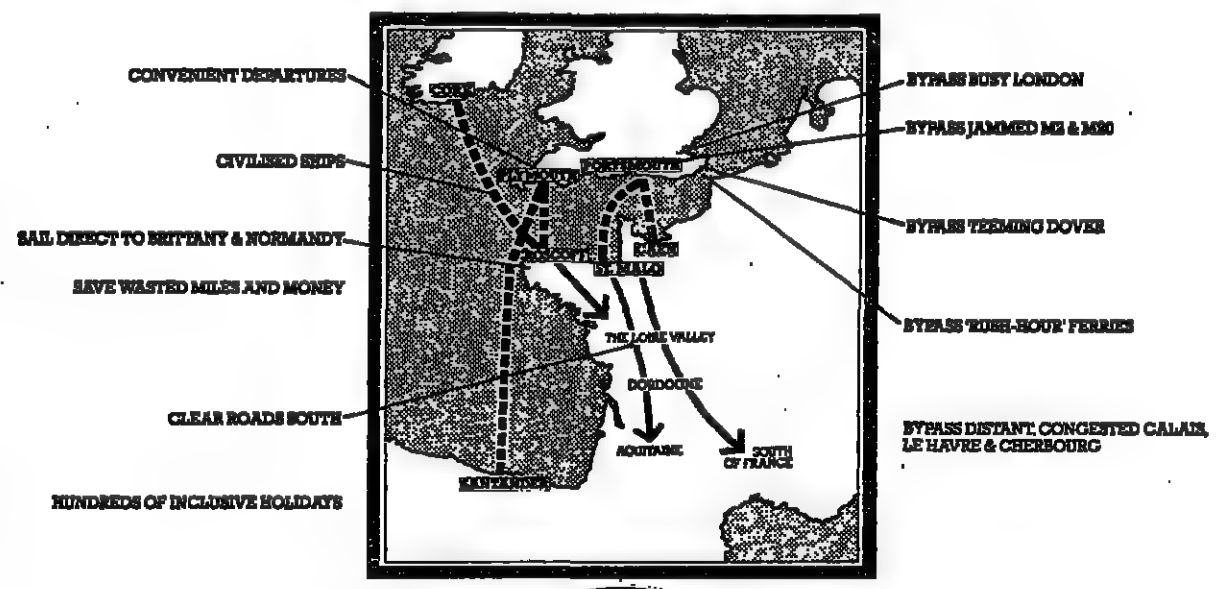
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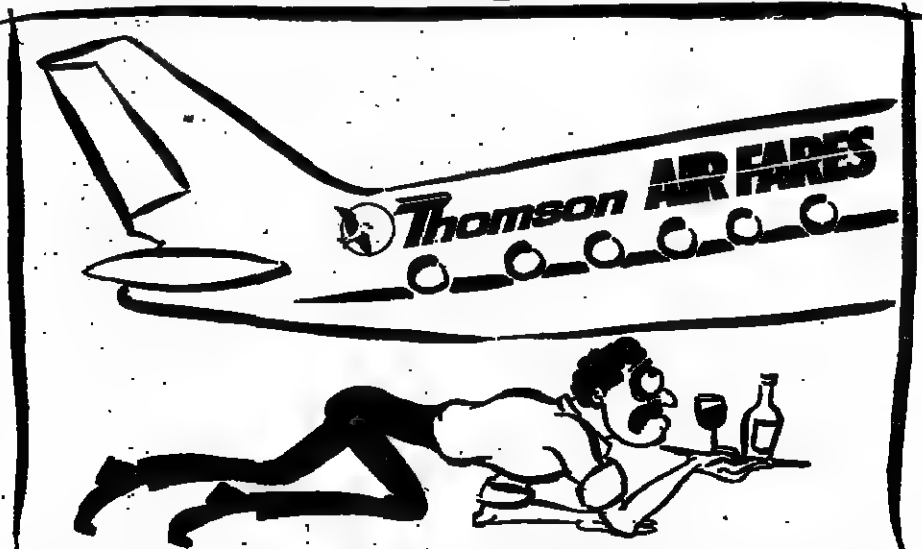
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IBERIA

THE TIMES COOK

San Francisco on your plate

Frances Bissell, back from the West Coast, passes on some ideas from top exponents of California's new cuisine

Today's recipes are all developed from some of the many ideas I picked up on a recent visit to San Francisco, my first visit to the West Coast of America in 10 years. We ate out; we ate in; we ate with friends; we ate alone; we ate on the move, and everywhere making notes. For the most part, we had exquisite food, made from high quality produce cooked in as simple a fashion as possible.

California cooking today has broad roots, some set firmly in southern France and Italy, some spreading to the Far East and, perhaps the strongest root of all now, native or regional American cooking, the sort of food that might once have been considered far too simple and homely. Home-made breads and pastries, simple soups and pastas, stews and salads were much enjoyed everywhere we went. And I was surprised at what I found. I had gone expecting, frankly, weird food. But, in fact, our only weird culinary experience was our host's breakfast on our first morning — blue corn tortillas resembling suede elbow patches, which were rolled around chopped hard-boiled egg white and seasoned with plenty of black pepper and Tabasco sauce. Very low cholesterol, but very weird. The recipes which follow are not.

Paul Bertoli, the chef at Chez Panisse in Berkeley, has a reputation for his soups. I like to make soups using complementary ingredients such as carrot and peach, but it is his idea to keep them separate and then pour them together into the soup bowl, where the colours make a swirling pattern. It looks and tastes very good, is inexpensive, and only a little more trouble to make.

Splendid Carrot and Parsnip Soup (Serves 4 to 6)
 1/2oz/150g unsalted butter
 1 medium onion, peeled and sliced
 1 celery stalk, thinly sliced

For the carrot soup:
 1/2lb/230g carrots, peeled and thinly sliced
 1/2 teaspoon ground cardamom
 1/2 pint/430ml vegetable or meat stock
 1/2 pint/430ml full cream milk or single cream
Seasoning to taste
For the parsnip soup:
 1/2lb/230g parsnips, peeled and thinly sliced
 1/2 teaspoon ground or freshly grated nutmeg
 1/2 pint/430ml vegetable or meat stock
 1/2 pint/430ml full cream milk or single cream
Seasoning to taste

Use two saucepans. Melt half the butter in each. Divide the onion and celery between the two pans and gently sweat them in the butter. Add the carrots and cardamom to one pan and the parsnips and nutmeg to the other. Cook for two or three minutes, and then pour on the stock. 1/2 pint/430 ml into each pan. Cover and simmer gently for 15 to 20 minutes or until the vegetables are tender. Allow to cool slightly before putting in the blender or food processor. Blend the parsnip mixture with 1/2 pint/430ml milk or cream, sieve it, and pour it back into a clean saucepan. Run the blender goblet or food processor bowl, and deal with the carrot mixture in the same way. Reheat the two soups and pour some of each into heated soup bowls. For a denser, chewier texture, serve the soup without sieving it.

The following recipe is a very simple method of preparing a chicken. There are no sauces, creams or accompaniments, and it is therefore important to choose the best bird you can find, free-range if possible. I roast them in a clay pot.

The herbs used are a matter of taste and availability. The first time I cooked a chicken this way, I



used flat leaf parsley. The second time, a few clippings from the survivors in my window box, including rosemary, lemon thyme and lavender. These very pungent herbs used in rather smaller quantities than described below, did wonders to liven up a rather boring chicken (all the free-range ones had having been sold). The last time, I used fresh coriander, basil and oregano. It is important that, once prepared, the chicken is kept for 48 hours to let the herb flavours and the seasoning penetrate the flesh. The chicken must be very fresh.

Herb Seasoned Roast Chicken (Serves 4)
 1 3lb/1.35kg very fresh roasting chicken
 3 to 4 tablespoons fresh herbs

2 cloves garlic, peeled and thinly sliced (optional)
 2 teaspoons freshly ground black pepper
 2 teaspoons sea salt

Remove any visible fat from the chicken cavity. Ease the skin away from the flesh by gradually inserting your fingers between the skin and the breasts. Continue working your way round the chicken until the skin is loose around the legs and back. Stuff the space with the herbs, arranging the leaves over the surface of the chicken and under the skin. Do the same with the garlic slices, if you are using them. This is all much easier than it sounds.

Rub the salt and pepper into the chicken. Cover it loosely but

carefully with foil or plastic film, and refrigerate for 48 hours. When ready to cook it, bring the bird back to room temperature and roast in a preheated oven at gas mark 6, 200°C/400°F for 1 1/2 hours — or put the bird in a chicken brick or clay pot, in which case you do not need to preheat the oven.

Note: If you make the stock from the left-overs and chicken carcass, you can really only use it for soup. Do not try to reduce it very much to make a sauce. It would be far too salty. However, a very tasty soup can be produced by cooking rice in the stock, adding a little grated lemon peel, a hint of lemon juice, some left over cooked chicken and, right at the end, without letting it boil, an egg yolk well beaten with a little single cream. You will then have something like the Greek "avgolemono" soup.

Creamy cépe polenta (Serves 6-8)

This is one of Bradley Ogden's recipes. He is the chef at Campion Place in San Francisco and cooks some of the best food I've ever eaten. He was recently in London and you can taste some of his dishes in the Roof Restaurant at the London Hilton on Park Lane during February. He serves this polenta dish with grilled duck breast, together with tomato coulis, sautéed and a rosemary aioli. I like it on its own as a starter, and it would also go very well with the roast chicken. You could use reconstituted dried cépes, bottled or otherwise preserved cépes, or use oyster, shrimps or ordinary cap mushrooms.

1 1/2 pint/430ml water
 1 1/2 pint/430ml chicken or vegetable stock
 1 1/2 inch/7.5cm spring of rosemary
 1/2 lb/110g polenta — available from shops selling Italian produce
 1 teaspoon sea salt
 1 teaspoon ground white pepper
 2 teaspoons finely chopped garlic
 1/2 lb/110g unsalted butter
 1/2 lb/230g mushrooms, cleaned, trimmed and sliced 1/4 inch/1cm thick
 3 tablespoons chopped herbs (eg, parsley, sage, marjoram)
 1/2 pint/430ml sour cream

Preheat the oven to gas mark 4, 180°C/350°F. Bring the water and stock to a rolling boil in a large ovenproof pan or casserole. Add the rosemary and polenta, and stir with a wooden spoon continuously for five to 10 minutes to ensure there are no lumps. Cover and place in the oven for 45 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Remove the pan from the oven and add half the butter. Set it in a roasting pan of hot water to keep it warm. Melt the remaining butter in a frying pan, add the mushrooms, and fry them for two minutes. Add the garlic and season to taste with the salt and pepper. Cook for another two to three minutes until the mushrooms are soft. Add the mushrooms to the polenta with the herbs and sour cream. Serve immediately.

Chocolate and ginger make a good combination of flavours, as we discovered when we tasted Judy Rogers's rich, dense dessert at Zuni Café (she also inspired the herb seasoned roast chicken recipe). I have developed a lighter recipe, which you can serve while still warm with a warm sauce of white chocolate melted in cream or with crème fraîche if you can get it. Allowed to cool, it can be iced and served as a cake in the usual way.

Chocolate Ginger Cake (Serves 4 to 6)
 4 size-3 eggs
 1 tablespoon black treacle
 1 tablespoon golden syrup
 3oz/85g plain flour
 1 teaspoon baking powder
 1oz/30g cocoa powder
 2 level teaspoons ground ginger
 Pinch of salt

Butter and flour an 8 inch/20.5cm diameter cake tin. Whisk the eggs, treacle and golden syrup in a double boiler or in a bowl set over hot water until pale, foamy and much increased in volume. Sieve the dry ingredients together and fold these carefully into the egg mixture. Pour into the cake tin, smooth the top, and bake in the top half of a pre-heated oven at gas mark 3, 190°C/375°F for about 12 minutes. Remove from the oven, allow to cool slightly in the tin, then turn out on to a rack.

DRINK

Truffles and roses

Those who missed January's wine sales need not despair: several slashed-price offers are still on offer.

One of the most appealing is H. Allen Smith's Winter Wine Sale, which is on until February 13. It offers generous discounts on almost 50 different wines, mostly from Europe's leading vineyards but including a few wines from California and Australia. H. Allen Smith's most popular white wine — the delicious but unusual '86 Joao Pires Branco from Portugal, made from Muscat grapes and blessed with a low 11 per cent alcohol and a fresh, sprightly, grapey-flavoury palate, is down from £3.50 a bottle to £2.75 (Majestic £3.49).

Other bargains here include the blackcurrant '84 Chateau Reynella Cabernet Sauvignon from Australia, down from £5.45 a bottle to £4.65 (Oodhills stocks the '82 vintage for £5.49). Nor would I say no to the '85 Bourgogne Aligoté from the impressive Domaine Daniel Rieu for £6.50 a bottle, or to a dry white Bordeaux, the stylish '85 Chateau Reynon, down from £3.85 to £2.99. H. Allen Smith's London addresses are 24-25 Scala Street, London W1; 56 Lamb's Conduit Street, London WC1; 29 Heath Street, London NW3; and 26 Old Church Street, London SW4. (Most other enquiries should be addressed to the Scala Street address.)

Avery at 7 Park Street, Bristol, is also holding a Bin End Bonanza until February 29. Some prices are 15 per cent lower than last year's.

Burgundy devotees should not feel left out this month

The Clutch of Old Claret bottles worth while at £150 for a case of mature clarets, including such fine fare as Grand Lait 70 and Grand Lait 70. Similarly, a Case of Old Claretians — which includes older vintages of important properties such as Clos du Val's '79 Cabernet Sauvignon — looks tempting at £80.

The Victoria Wine Company has two worthwhile winter reds discounted this month. Apart from an unsuccessful first vintage, I have always admired Harvey's No. 1 Claret, a carefully crafted, now predominantly Merlot blend. The latest vintage on offer is the '83, down from £3.59 a bottle to £2.99, a keen price for this wine whose rich, cedary bouquet and firm, dry blackcurrant palate is perhaps best with food.

Berry Bros & Rudd, those gentle St James's wine merchants at 3 St James's Street, London SW1, still have stocks of an excellent mature claret, the '77 Chateau Meyrieux, at a very reasonable £7.45. This is an important crus bourgeois St Estephe property run by the well-known Bordeaux firm of Cordier. Although 1977 was not a good Bordeaux year, some good wines were made and this '77 Meyrieux, with its rich, mature truffle scent and fine cedary taste, is certainly one of them. Delivery is free for one case or more to any address on the UK mainland.

Burgundy devotees should not feel left out this month, for Davisons still has lots of the glorious '85 Cote de Beaune Villages from Roger Lebon, which visits small growers and bottles their wines for them. Burgundy's contract bottlers do not have a good reputation, but this wine, which costs £6.69, will go some way towards improving it. This lovely ripe, tea-rose scented and plummy-palated mouthful is superb.

Jane MacQuitty

EATING OUT

Bauhaus to chowhouse

The River Café is, literally, in its beguiling back yard, Thames Wharf is a complex of pre-war warehouses in the former light industrial area between Hammersmith and Fulham Palace, an area which will no doubt come to be called Docklands West. These buildings, which overlook the Barn Elms reservoirs and Harrod's Repository, were converted to studios, workshops and for his practice's use by Richard Rogers, architect of Lloyd's headquarters and the Pompidou Centre.

Devotees (and beraters) of Rogers's work are in for something of a surprise. On his own patch he has abjured what Lutyens called "the high game" and gone in for something much simpler. Where his most famous buildings merely pretended to be functional — he habitually uses technological icons, of course, but in a romantic, sculptural, ornamental manner — this lot really are functional. Indeed, were it not for the fairly high quality of its detailing, the River Café might be taken for a student canteen, which is probably the intention. There is an unmistakably collegiate feel to the place. This is further occasioned by the restaurant's site in a quadrangle whose west side is the Thames

Two architects have branched into the restaurant business — and the results are impressive, writes Jonathan Meades

(unseeable, save at flood level, when you're sitting down), and by the fact that it is frequented by those who work in the proximate buildings and know each other. Don't let this apparent exclusiveness put you off: the food is worth crossing town for.

In an interview a few years back, Rogers expressed great enthusiasm for the Tuscan hill town of San Gimignano, a claim which might perplex anyone who has compared that site of medieval towers to his own work, even given his fondness for fantastical sky-lines. I see now that what he must have been talking about was the place's cooking, the food that you might get there, might if you're very lucky and eat in the home of someone who can cook — for what the River Café, run by Rogers's wife Ruth, does is nothing less than top notch north-central Italian home food.

This cooking is polished by neither the sub culinary laziness of most London Italian catering nor by the cynicism of

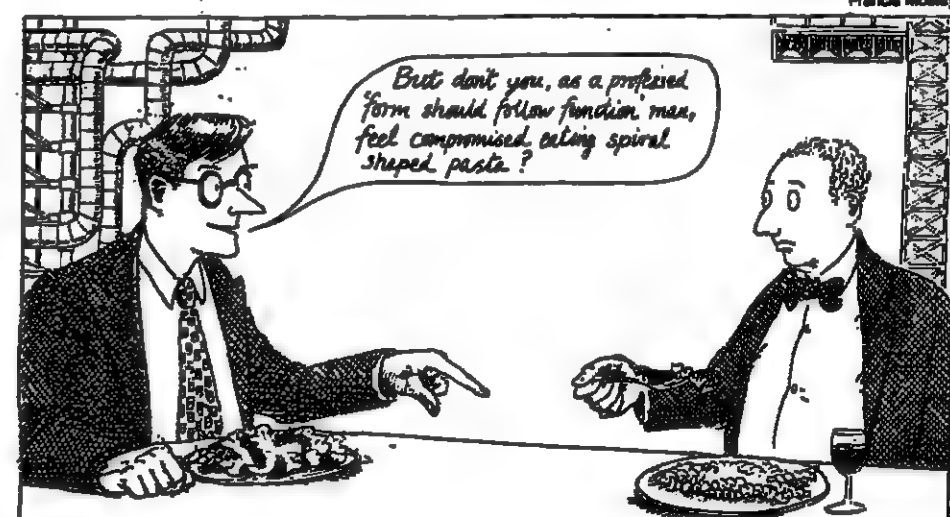
the Tuscan restaurant trade, which has grown rich and complacent on the backs of undemanding tourists or, maybe, tourists who are too demanding, who require fancy and fussy "improvements" to what is a simple, but not unsophisticated, sort of cooking. This place gets it right: not least through its restraint; a salad of thick, domino-size slices of cold, rare beef rum is served with non-designer lettuce (remember the stuff) dressed with aromatic olive oil and lemon.

The beef itself is lightly spread with a herby green sauce, and the entire ensemble is quite delicious. The spiral pasta called fusilli are sauced with an unmissable, very clean tasting, properly defined combo of broccoli, chili and parmesan with a little butter: had the pasta been of the quality of the sauce this would have been something extra special. Bolito misto here is a close match for that at Kensington Palace: I'm not certain that salt beef is entirely

authentic but it works well with tongue and capon (or chicken). The tiny lentils with it were dressed in good oil. The conchino sausage was unusually succulent. The green sauce was piquant. And the mostarda di frutta was delightful, the flavour of mustard oil not, for once, overwhelming by a sickly syrup.

We also ate a dish of mixed smoked fish with a creamy horseradish sauce and a well-made chocolate and almond cake. The bread with the cheese (a ripe Vacherin) comes from the classy Parisian baker Poilane; it is no doubt heretical to suggest that there is better stuff to be had from the London bakery called La Fornia.

The fastidiousness and scrupulousness of the cooking is matched in the selection of wines. At £5.90, the 1985 Montepulciano d'Abruzzo from the Cantina Tollo is probably the single greatest restaurant bargain in London. The second greatest bargain is probably a 1978 Rioja Reserva Arana, which is £5.50 the half and a reminder of what these wines used to be like. All this, plus two coffees and a bottle of Perrier, came to a startlingly reasonable £32 before service — which is deft and friendly



and knowledgeable and well worth a 15 per cent tip, which the bill is well-mannered enough not to suggest. So two will pay about £37 for something very special indeed.

Le Mesurier is another outfit owned by an architect and sited on the practice's premises — in this case the ground floor of an austere but attractive early 19th-century building just north of the City and round the corner from the ruin of Hawksmoor's St Luke's, Old Street. It's an area that is both poorly served by decent restaurants and increasingly inhabited domestically, so this former lunchtime-only place is now open at night. It is small, uncramped, neat, decorated with McKnight Kauriff posters and plants.

The cooking veers between homely stuff that gran'mère might have made and rather fancier creations. Of the former type was a splendid fennel porridge dotted with mussels — it was vaguely soup-like and served generously; and there was a very sweet sweet of profiteroles with butterscotch sauce — I'm not too certain in fact that gran'mère would have made this.

The fancier dishes included steamed monkfish with a pestis flavoured sauce, goose liver with brioche and candied oranges, veal with a seed-mustard sauce. The cheeses, which are left for you to help

yourself, included a couple of chèvres, Bresse Bleu and Boule d'Avesnes — they were all in peak condition and as sound as the dishes that had preceded them. The pre-prandial snacks and friandises with the coffee are well made. The service is pleasant. There are no bargains to be had among the wines but there is a perfectly sound Julianen at a not unreasonable mark-up. Two will pay between about £55 and £65.

THE RIVER CAFE, Thames Wharf, Rainville Road, London W8 01-385 3344, 12.30pm, Mon to Fri.
LE MESURIER, 113 Old Street, London EC1 2ST 8117 12.30pm and 6-11pm, Mon to Fri.

IN THE GARDEN

Irises smiling through winter

This is the time to sing the praises of our wild green iris, the gladdon or gladyon or *Iris Foetidissima*, which transfers to the garden readily and handsomely. It blends discreetly with summer foliage, hiding its strange, ashy flowers, gives a flashing early winter performance when the seed pods break, revealing their bright orange-searlet berries. But it is under heavy February skies that the dark green clumps of shining spear-like leaves look freshest and most cheerful.

Gladdons are dramatic growing alongside Mahonia Charity, with its leathery leaflets and butter-coloured crop of flower spikes — coming early into flower this year. My gladdons grow with Oregon grape, a less showy Mahonia, but make their best effect with another wild plant, the native hellebore or *Helleborus*

foetidus which gives exceptionally good service. (Don't be put off by the Latin names of these two natives; neither plant is foul smelling.) I find the wild species most attractive, especially in small gardens, but there is a more popular variety, known as Cirina (or sometimes Lutea) larger and more statuesque, with pale yellow flowers, veined brown. The large Cirina seed pods, right as

sweetcorn, open a milkier, brighter orange. There is also a variegated form which is frankly repulsive, but gives gardeners who appreciate such stripes and blotches something to look at through the window.

Variegata needs the shade, but the other kinds grow happily in sun and shade in any soil conditions. Even small plants can look effective but they usually take a year to settle in, the clumps gradually increasing in size as they mature. October is the usual time for planting and division, but I have successfully transplanted and gently split off rhizomes to start new plants this time of year in mild weather. The young rhizomes respond to a moist, humus-rich soil and should be set about 1 1/2 inches/4cms deep.

Francesca Greenoak

WEEKEND TIPS

● Clear weeds from around fruit trees, give an all-round fertilizer and put on a mulch.
 ● Sow cabbage, cauliflowers, lettuces and early peas indoors.
 ● Don't throw away pot daffodils — harden them off for planting out in early spring.

● Check any fruit and vegetables still in store for signs of decay.
 ● Keep soft fruit weeded, apply all-round fertilizer and mulch with spent mushroom compost, well-rotted manure or compost.

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Nescafé Alta Rica

REVIEW

NEW PAPERBACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

FICTION

A Fatal Inversion, by Barbara Vine (Penguin, £2.95). Ruth Rendell, in her alias Neil, won the Crime Writers' Golden Dagger last year with this macabre East Anglian tale that starts with a body in the gun-room, but the dog it was that has died.

Armour Wherein He Trusted, by Mary Webb (Virago, £3.95). Webb's last, published posthumously in 1929, is a poetic Medieval Romance of Sir Gilbert and his ill-fated love for Nesta, a woman of the forest; plus 10 short stories.

Busy About The Tree Of Life, by Pamela Zoline (The Women's Press, £4.50). First publication of ingenious biographical, pastoral-pastiche, science fiction, and other stories by Night-On American.

Elizabeth Alone, by William Trevor (Penguin, £3.95). Shrewd comedy of manners sharply observed in mostly genteel London SW, where assorted women are in hospital.

NON-FICTION
A Desert Dies, by Michael Asher (Penguin, £4.95). Heir to Lawrence and Thesiger lives with the Kababish tribe while their Sahara becomes a wasteland of hunger, civil war, and indifference, and their traditions face extinction.

Fourteen Letters, by Felicia Topolski (Faber, £3.00). Episodic, self-indulgent, heavily illustrated memoirs of the 14-letter artist.

Fragments of a Journal, by Eugene Ionesco, translated by Jean Stewart (Quartet, £4.95). Jottings, dreams, and memories by the comic anarchist of the absurd.

The Penguin Modern Guide to Synonyms and Related Words, edited by S. I. Hayakawa, revised by P. J. Fletcher (Penguin, £3.95). Meander through the labyrinth, because instead of listing "synonyms" it defines, compares and explains the differences between the so-called synonyms.

Observing the media excitement that continues to attend every move made by Courtney Pine and contrasting it with his actual artistic achievement, a cynic might easily conclude that this young man is merely the right face in the right place at the right time. The face is certainly important — perhaps more important than the sound.

After the success of the multi-faceted *Journey to the Urge Within*, which sold an astounding 70,000 copies and put jazz in the pop charts for the first time since "Take Five" and the *Travis* Boom, Pine and his new producer, Defacto Marsalis, have opted for a straight saxophone-and-rhythm album whose acceptability quite frankly depends on the listener's ignorance of the John Coltrane Quartet of the early Sixties, one of the greatest and most imitated of all jazz combos.

Pine and his accompanists (notably the enthusiastic young drummer, Mark Mondesir) put their backs into the task, but lack the individual or collective character to sound



Shooting from the lip

PAPERBACKS

5001 Nights at the Movies: State of the Art 1950-85, by Pauline Kael (Avalon, £5.95 each)

Scan the critics' roll-call on any movie's promotional poster, and one name you'll rarely find is that of Pauline Kael. As film critic on *The New Yorker* for more than 20 years, her writing has not easily been reduced to chunks of meaningless hyperbole. What's more, her standards are so exacting that most films simply dissolve beneath her magisterial scrutiny.

One notes with pleasure that Avalon has now chosen to re-issue her acknowledged classic, *5001 Nights at the Movies*, a marvellous anthology of short reviews that take in eight

decades of film. The pieces assembled here are exemplary for their wit, perspicacity, and compression. Brimming with energy, this is Kael at her slangy, trenchant best, albeit in miniature. Those who prefer her over the long stretch should turn to collections such as *Kiss Kiss Bang Bang*, *When The Lights Go Down*, or her most recent, *State of the Art*.

This last brings together her reviews between June 1983 and July 1985, and immediately clear is her disaffection with the state of this particular art — even as movies go bad these days? Even favourite directors like Brian De Palma let her down, and she spends five long pages on a brilliant (and much deserved) exorcism of his *Scarface*. Elsewhere, she draws from a quiverful of word-perfect shafts: of *The Draughtsman's Contract* she

remarks, "The speeches are so arch and witty they seem to be pitched higher than a dog whistle... it puts you in a narcoleptic trance even if you're paying attention." For *Beetnik* she reserves a special acerbity: "The three actors all had the stricken look that is proper to a Pinter play; he doesn't bother writing about anyone who's alive."

She can also be perverse and unfair (it would be less enthralling if she were not). She pans *Witness* — "a compendium of scenes I had hoped never to see again" — but delivers practically an encomium of a limp costume-piece like *The Shooting Party*.

Part of Kael's appeal lies in her ability to raise the imaginative stakes, and sharpen the focus on details of plot and characterization that would escape lesser critics. Matching this to a

prose which positively swaggers, one soon realizes why she is the doyenne of modern filmchat.

It's much to her credit that she still enjoys such a passionate and serious involvement with films. Yet despite occasional zinger, *State of the Art* suggests an overriding awareness of Hollywood's creative bankruptcy. As movie budgets spiral ever upward, inspiration and talent seem at their lowest ebb. She notes in the preface: "In the 1970s, people who met me usually said something on the order of 'You're so lucky — you get to go to the movies.' In the 1980s, people are more likely to say 'Do you have to sit through that stuff?'" One hopes that she will continue to sit through this stuff for a long time to come.

Anthony Quinn

Folk for all folk

Elkan's Violin & Other Jewish Folktales, selected and told by Howard Schwartz: **A Thorn in The King's Foot: Stories of the Scottish Travelling People**, by Duncan and Linda Williamson (Penguin Folklore Library, £5.95 each)

The stories in *Elkan's Violin* have a world-view of Talmudic dogma and dybbuks, an atmosphere all their own yet recognizably related to the international corpus of folktale. Particularly intriguing are the stories of the doings of that folk archetype, who remains a folk hero right up to the present day, King Solomon.

The Jewish tales, like the Irish and Arabic previous collections in the Penguin Folklore Library series, are a reprint of an American original. The Scottish travellers' tales, on the other hand, are a valuable original collection.

Duncan Williamson is an actual traveller, who has acquired a collector's interest in the folklore of his own people while retaining his inherited skill in traditional narrative. His American-born second wife Linda has recorded and transcribed his tales exactly as told. The resultant fascinating collection is enhanced by an introduction by the great Hamish Henderson of Edinburgh University's School of Scottish Studies, providing, as well as his invaluable comments, the essential scholarly apparatus of analogues and Aarne-Thompson index tale-type numbers which are so welcome a feature of this excellent series. The Folklore Library is for the scholar as well as the general reader who likes folktales.

Michael Grosvenor Myer

THE TIMES ARTS DIARY

Bacon on the tide

The deep may be about to yield another mystery — the missing manuscripts of Francis Bacon. This summer an American expedition will travel to deserted Oak Island, 40 miles off Nova Scotia, to retrieve the contents of the ultimate safe deposit box: a deep 16th-century shaft, booby-trapped by the tide. Though pieces of parchment have been retrieved, previous expeditions have been defeated by the flooding system, set to be sealed with concrete in explorer David Tobias's plan. Peter Dawkins, of the Francis Bacon Research Trust, is convinced that there is something important down there — after all, Bacon's secret society, the Rosicrucians, had many contacts with early American settlers.

Angels needed

The path to the West End never did run smooth and the programme for the King's Head's hit production of Noel Coward's *Easy Virtue* is no exception to the rule. "Investment opportunity," it cries, "capital required." Its producers are still £70,000 short of its transfer costs, according to leading lady Jane How. "There are would-be angels out there who cannot get a slice of the action with Andrew Lloyd Webber."

Embarrassment at the Arts Council this week at the short list for the Arts Journalism Awards they are helping to organize. One of the contenders for the £1,000 prize is none other than Charles Osborne, its former literature director, who left in 1986 with more money than good will.

Polanski's beetle

Steven Berkoff tells me that directing Roman Polanski in a new French version of *Metamorphosis* was just as difficult as it sounds. Polanski as the beetle was more used to directing than being directed and rehearsals were tempestuous. "Then overnight Polanski



metamorphosed into the part." After admiring reviews from Paris critics, would Berkoff work with Polanski again? "I'd have to have a good think about that."

Timothy Dalton is "very moving," Vanessa Redgrave "radiant," David Thewlis "beautifully cast". Yet Wednesday's *Times* review of *Touch of the Poet* appeared against the express wishes of the Young Vic. Critics asked to publish nothing until the transfer to the Haymarket in the West End next month. "We would like you to see it in both theatres before writing," wrote Thewlis and Duncan Wedderburn, of Triumph Productions. As rumours fly about a troubled production, I await the true explanation for the pair's uncharacteristic shyness.

Andrew Billen

The lecture/symposium by Nigel Konstam on Rembrandt is at the Arts Club at 40 Dover Street, London W1, on Monday evening, not at the Chelsea Arts Club, as given (Spectrum, February 4).

Right face, old sound

JAZZ RECORDS

Courtney Pine Destiny's Song and the Image of Puritance (Antilles AN 8725)
Von Freeman Young and Foolish (Affinity AFF 164)

Observing the media excitement that continues to attend every move made by Courtney Pine and contrasting it with his actual artistic achievement, a cynic might easily conclude that this young man is merely the right face in the right place at the right time. The face is certainly important — perhaps more important than the sound.

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Pine and his accompanists (notably the enthusiastic young drummer, Mark Mondesir) put their backs into the task, but lack the individual or collective character to sound

Music to fill the gap

ROCK RECORDS

Wishbone Ash Nouveau Calls (IRS MIRF 1029)
Pete Haycock Guitar And Son (IRS MIRF 1027)
Stewart Copeland The Equalizer & Other Cliff Hangers (IRS 42089)
William Orbit Strange Cargo (IRS 42098)

A generation of middle-aged rock fans is suffering across-the-board musical alienation. Uninterested in an album chart that is a home for designer pop stars and heavy metal brats, let alone in a singles chart dominated by teenage American girls, these lapsed listeners are nevertheless unable to relate to the cliché mysteries of jazz, still less the highbrow intricacies of classical music. The only New Age record they bought sent them to sleep.

It is this kind of tempting, though glib, demagogical speculation that lies at the heart of Miles Copeland's latest project, a series of instrumental albums released on his IRS label under the banner "No Speak" (available from February 22). The suspicion that behind all the theorizing "No Speak" may be merely a vehicle for Copeland, the erstwhile manager of the Police and long-time music business Svengali, once more to milk a few old cows, is allayed by Wishbone Ash's contribution, *Nouveau Calls*.

The original line-up of Ted Turner, Andy Powell, Martin Turner and Steve Upton turns in a sparkling, forward-looking batch of tunes that thankfully eschews the dual guitar harmonizing for which the group used to be renowned in the Seventies. Opting instead for a more impressionistic approach, the band scores moody points with chunky rhythm tracks and glistening tremoloed guitar parts, notably on the haunting progressions of a piece titled "Arabesque".

Pete Haycock, the guitarist who founded the Climax Blues Band in 1968, rises less ably to



Wishbone Ash: an impressionistic approach

the challenge of producing an instrumental album, and his *Guitar And Son* is an unfocused catalogue of old-fashioned styles and riffs — fusion, pomp, metallic blues — bashed out with workmanlike polish.

Stewart Copeland's *The Equalizer & Other Cliff Hangers* is a typically oblique yet rambling collection which builds on the foundations laid by his soundtrack work on *Rumblefish* and the TV series of the title. Much of it sounds suspiciously like doodling dressed up as "art".

William Orbit is IRS's resident studio "genius", and with its atmospheric passages and tapestry of studio and synth-generated effects, *Strange Cargo* is the nearest that "No Speak" gets to New Age.

With "Wave" radio stations, devoted entirely to playing New Age music, springing up in America, it may well be that the day of instrumental rock is at hand. Copeland has been scoring bulls-eyes since the progressive era of the early Seventies. Perhaps he has got it right again.

David Sinclair

Desert island CDs

Beethoven: Emperor Concerto/Piano Sonata No 7. Fischer/Furtwängler/Philharmonia (EMI CDH 7810052)
Schubert: Piano Trio in E flat/Fantasy in C. Busch Trio (EMI CDH 7810142)
Strauss: Four Last Songs/Extracts From Capriccio And Arabella/Schwarzkopf/Philharmonia (EMI CDH 7810012)

Now that EMI's *Reference* series is available in CD form, an archive of many wonders is open for public perusal. No one should hesitate to check here before selecting the performance they choose to live: these samplings are three I'd insist on for my desert island.

First there is Edwin Fischer, that "lion with velvet paws", freshly re-mastered from his 1951 Abbey Road recording of the Emperor Concerto. Fischer was into authenticity long before many of his contemporaries were born: he directed the first four Beethoven concertos from the keyboard, and insisted in Furtwängler's partnership for the fifth only because of its unique opposition of forces.

And how they oppose! This is a reading which uncovers powers too often left sleeping. Furtwängler, charging every string semiquaver with life, and Fischer restoring every note to radiant value, between

them trap, confer and release the work's energies in a revelatory performance.

The sound quality is full and true, and is one of the miracles of this series. Even the Schubert Trio, taken from 78s recorded in the 1930s, have an immediacy which directs the ear straight to the heart of the Busch Trio's playing: the song of Adolf Busch's violin, the easy grace of Serkin's piano and the dark, understated cello playing of Hermann Busch. The "Sei mir geglaubt" Fantasy becomes a little emblem of their performing character: a taut, poignant simplicity marks their playing, glossed by a brightness which is never merely busy.

And so to Schwarzkopf. Her husband, Walter Legge, conducted the premiere of Strauss's *Four Last Songs* with Flagstad in 1950. Three years later, Schwarzkopf made her first recording of the work. Both the freshness of her encounter and the baton of Otto Ackermann prevent so much of the sentimental accretions we are now sadly used to in these songs. The songs are coupled with equally ardent, swift moving extracts from the 1954 *Arabella* including the Acts 1 and 3 finales, now conducted by von Metacac with the Philharmonia in its heyday.

Hilary Finch

CHESS

Britons make the grade

Britain's two representatives in the Saint John Candidates' Tournament in Canada have made an historic breakthrough to become the first British players ever to qualify for the quarter finals of the World Championship cycle. Jon Speelman proved what an outstandingly practical player he is by consistently outplaying the American Grandmaster Yasser Seirawan in complex time pressure situations while the British champion, Nigel Short, has demonstrated in no uncertain terms that he is a true disciple of that master strategist, Anatoly Karpov.

This week's game shows Short in typical Karpovian vein against his impetuous Hungarian opponent. White: Gyula Sax; Black: Nigel Short. Round 2, Saint John Candidates, January 25.

The Karpov-Zaitzev patent, the most popular choice in the Ruy Lopez.

In another game between Sax and Short played at Subotica 1987, White had

sacrificed a piece by varying this week's game playing instead: 18 Nd4 Ne5 19 axb5 Qb6 20 Nxd4, leading to vast complications.

Up to now both players were making their moves at a very fast tempo, which is understandable since the position is still "book" and they had already played an interesting game in this line (see note to White's 18th).

Now everything centres around the "d3" pawn. White must seize the pawn to prevent... Nc4.

Now it is evident that Black has more than sufficient compensation for the pawn-Bishop pair, active pieces and a strong passed pawn.

After 26 Qd2, Black has 26... Qxd2 27 Bxd2 Nc4 28 Rxd3 Rxe4.

A must, because Black threatened... h6-b5 and... Bb6.

30 Qd2 31 Rf2 32 Rf2 33 Rf2 34 Rf2

35 Rf2 36 Rf2 37 Rf2 38 Rf2 39 Rf2 40 Rf2

41 Rf2 42 Rf2 43 Rf2 44 Rf2 45 Rf2 46 Rf2

47 Rf2 48 Rf2 49 Rf2 50 Rf2 51 Rf2 52 Rf2

53 Rf2 54 Rf2 55 Rf2 56 Rf2 57 Rf2 58 Rf2

59 Rf2 60 Rf2 61 Rf2 62 Rf2 63 Rf2 64 Rf2

65 Rf2 66 Rf2 67 Rf2 68 Rf2 69 Rf2 70 Rf2

71 Rf2 72 Rf2 73 Rf2 74 Rf2 75 Rf2 76 Rf2

77 Rf2 78 Rf2 79 Rf2 80 Rf2 81 Rf2 82 Rf2

83 Rf2 84 Rf2 85 Rf2 86 Rf2 87 Rf2 88 Rf2

89 Rf2 90 Rf2 91 Rf2 92 Rf2 93 Rf2 94 Rf2

95 Rf2 96 Rf2 97 Rf2 98 Rf2 99 Rf2 100 Rf2

101 Rf2 102 Rf2 103 Rf2 104 Rf2 105 Rf2 106 Rf2

107 Rf2 108 Rf2 109 Rf2 110 Rf2 111 Rf2 112 Rf2

113 Rf2 114 Rf2 115 Rf2 116 Rf2 117 Rf2 118 Rf2

119 Rf2 120 Rf2 121 Rf2 122 Rf2 123 Rf2 124 Rf2

125 Rf2 126 Rf2 127 Rf2 128 Rf2 129 Rf2 130 Rf2

131 Rf2 132 Rf2 133 Rf2 134 Rf2 135 Rf2 136 Rf2

137 Rf2 138 Rf2 139 Rf2 140 Rf2 141 Rf2 142 Rf2

143 Rf2 144 Rf2 145 Rf2 146 Rf2 147 Rf2 148 Rf2

149 Rf2 150 Rf2 151 Rf2 152 Rf2 153 Rf2 154 Rf2

155 Rf2 156 Rf2 157 Rf2 158 Rf2 159 Rf2 160 Rf2

161 Rf2 162 Rf2 163 Rf2 164 Rf2 165 Rf2 166 Rf2

167 Rf2 168 Rf2 169 Rf2 170 Rf2 171 Rf2 172 Rf2

173 Rf2 174 Rf2 175 Rf2 176 Rf2 177 Rf2 178 Rf2

179 Rf2 180 Rf2 181 Rf2 182 Rf2 183 Rf2 184 Rf2

185 Rf2 186 Rf2 187 Rf2 188 Rf2 189 Rf2 190 Rf2

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197 Rf2 198 Rf2 199 Rf2 200 Rf2 201 Rf2 202 Rf2

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215 Rf2 216 Rf2 217 Rf2 218 Rf2 219 Rf2 220 Rf2

221 Rf2 222 Rf2 223 Rf2 224 Rf2 225 Rf2 226 Rf2

227 Rf2 228 Rf2 229 Rf2 230 Rf2 231 Rf2 232 Rf2

233 Rf2 234 Rf2 235 Rf2 236 Rf2 237 Rf2 238 Rf2

239 Rf2 240 Rf2 241 Rf2 242 Rf2 243 Rf2 244 Rf2

245 Rf2 246 Rf2 247 Rf2 248 Rf2 249 Rf2 250 Rf2

251 Rf2 252 Rf2 253 Rf2 254 Rf2 255 Rf2 256 Rf2

257 Rf2 258 Rf2 259 Rf2 260 Rf2 261 Rf2 262 Rf2

263 Rf2 264 Rf2 265 Rf2 266 Rf2 267 Rf2 268 Rf2

269 Rf2 270 Rf2 271 Rf2 272 Rf2 273 Rf2 274 Rf2

275 Rf2 276 Rf2 277 Rf2 278 Rf2 279 Rf2 280 Rf2

281 Rf2 282 Rf2 283 Rf2 284 Rf2 285 Rf2 286 Rf2

287 Rf2 288 Rf2 289 Rf2 290 Rf2 291 Rf2 292 Rf2

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329 Rf2 330 Rf2 331 Rf2 332 Rf2 333 Rf2 334 Rf2

335 Rf2 336 Rf2 337 Rf2 338 Rf2 339 Rf2 340 Rf2

341 Rf2 342 Rf2 343 Rf2 344 Rf2 345 Rf2 346 Rf2

347 Rf2 348 Rf2 349 Rf2 350 Rf2 351 Rf2 352 Rf2

353 Rf2 354 Rf2 355 Rf2 356 Rf2 357 Rf2 358 Rf2

359 Rf2 360 Rf2 361 Rf2 362 Rf2 363 Rf2 364 Rf2

365 Rf2 366 Rf2 367 Rf2 368 Rf2 369 Rf2 370 Rf2

371 Rf2 372 Rf2 373 Rf2 374 Rf2 375 Rf2 376 Rf2

377 Rf2 378 Rf2 379 Rf2 380 Rf2 381 Rf2 382 Rf2

383 Rf2 384 Rf2 385 Rf2 386 Rf2 387 Rf2 388 Rf2

389 Rf2 390 Rf2 391 Rf2 392 Rf2 393 Rf2 394 Rf2

395 Rf2 396 Rf2 397 Rf2 398 Rf2 399 Rf2 400 Rf2

THE WEEK AHEAD



OPERA

TRAVELLING MAN: Graham Jenkins has just returned from Geneva where he has been conducting *Hansel and Gretel*, his first engagement outside Britain. Tonight he is in charge of Scottish Opera's new production of Mozart's *Così fan tutte*. Just approaching 30, as are his production team of Richard Jones and Nigel Lowery, Jenkins goes back to Geneva next season for *L'Heure espagnole* and has been engaged by the Netherlands Opera, Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041 331 1234), 7.15pm.



GALLERIES

RED FACES: Eileen Cooper, a 34-year-old painter whose "Pick of the Crop" is seen above, paints women and children acting out dream-like fables. Though not self-portraits, all of her work is based on her own experience as a woman and, more recently, as a mother. Besides the mystery of symbol and saga her paintings are striking for their saturated, red colours. Eileen Cooper's first solo exhibition in London for three years is at Benjamin Rhodes Gallery, London W1 (01-434 1766). From Wednesday.



CONCERTS

GOING SOLO: Sir Neville Martinov will conduct two concerts with the Philharmonia Orchestra this week, each having a distinguished violinist as soloist. Tonight the overture is that for Verdi's opera *I Vespri Siciliani*. Dmitri Sitkovetsky will be heard in Brahms's Violin Concerto, followed by Dvorak's Symphony No. 8. On Monday the soloist is Nigel Kennedy, in Walton's Violin Concerto, and this will be followed by the Mussorgsky-Ravel Pictures at an Exhibition. Royal Festival Hall (01-928 3191), today, Monday, 7.30pm.



BOOKS

CRYING WOLFE: Tom Wolfe's first novel, *The Bonfire of the Vanities*, is published on Monday (Cape, £12.95). The superstar of the newish American journalism deploys his glitzy prose in a comic but savage Juvenalian satire of High Life and Low Life in the Big Rotten Apple. Sherman McCoy, yuppie Wall Street whiz-kid, is plunged by an accident into the hell-hole of the Central Booking Bureau in the Bronx. Prosecutors, politicians, the press, and other hustlers close in on him with relish.



CINEMA

CRAZY LADY: Barbra Streisand is the star, producer and composer of *Nuts* (18). She plays a mentally unhinged upper-crust prostitute, arrested for killing a client. Richard Dreyfuss is the defence lawyer plunged into debates on the subjectivity of mental health. Earnest stuff, from a play by Tom Topor, directed by Martin Ritt, with a strong supporting line-up of old chums — Maureen Stapleton, Karl Malden, Eli Wallach. Warner West End (01-438 0791), Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue (01-636 6279), from Fri.



JAZZ

STILL SWEET: Harry Edison's delicate trumpet tone has justly earned him the nickname "Sweeties" over half a century. He joined Count Basie in 1938 and remained one of the orchestra's most distinctive voices for more than a decade before embarking on a solo career which led to celebrated sessions with Frank Sinatra and some inspired jams with Ellington and many others. He begins a national tour tonight at the Farmer's Club, Cambridge (0223 62086). Other dates include Cardiff, Swansea, Newcastle, Leeds and London.

THEATRE LONDON

AND THEN THERE WERE NONE: Koo Stark takes over from Glynis Barber in this Agatha Christie thriller directed by Kenneth Alan Taylor. Duke of York's (01-636 5122). From Mon.

FANNY: Estelle Kohler and David Rees present the life and story of Fanny Kemble. Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 8891). Tonight only, 7.30pm.

HANDFUL OF STARS: Billy Roche's first play, directed by Robin Lefevre, is set in an Irish snooker hall. Bush Theatre, Shepherd's Bush Green, London W11 (01-743 3388). From Wed.

HAPPY GO GO: Premiere of Tom Stoppard play, directed by Peter Wood, with Felicity Kendal, Nigel Hawthorne and Roger Rees. Transfers directly to the Aldwych. Wimbledon Theatre, The Broadway, London SW19 (01-540 0362). Opens Fri.

LOW LEVEL PANIC: Nancy Meckler directs a play by Clare McIntyre. Three women prepare for a "big night out" together. Theatre Upstairs, Royal Court (01-730 2554). From Thurs.

THE RINK: John Kander and Fred Ebb musical, directed and choreographed by Paul Karryson. Cast headed by Diane Langton and Josephine Blake. Cambridge Theatre (01-379 5259). Preview from Mon. Opens Feb 17.

TREE: One-man show by Ronald Fennee as Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree, actor-manager. Directed by Margaret Wolfe. Theatre Museum, Russell Street, London WC2 (01-636 7891). Opens Tues.

TRINIDAD SISTERS: Mustapha Matura's play is described as "after Chekhov", with a Port of Spain, 1939, setting. Directed by Nicolas Kent. Dominion Warehouse (01-240 8230). Preview Tues, Wed. Opens Thurs.

OUT OF TOWN

CANTERBURY: One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest: The New Vic Theatre Company launch the first tour of Dale Wasserman's stage version of the Ken Kesey novel. With John Vine, Stephanie Turner, directed by Robin Middley. Marlborough Theatre (0227 767248). From Mon.

EDINBURGH: Death of a Salesman: Paul Maxwell as Willy Loman in Arthur Miller's play, directed by Ian Woollidge. Royal Lyceum (031 229 9897). Free preview Thurs. Opens Fri.

GUILDFORD: No Sex, Please, We're British: First national tour of the long-running West End success, with Andrew Sachs. Yvonne Arnaud (0483 60191). Opens Tues.

LEICESTER: Timon of Athens: Rare late Shakespeare, with George Costigan, Brian Bovell, Philip Brook and Andrew Johnson. Directed by Simon Usher. Haymarket (0533 539797). Opens Thurs.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 22
COLOGUE (b) Vicious mispronunciation or bad choice of words, from the Greek *kakos* bad, and *logos* word.
CURRIED WALNUT (a) Slangy slang for an unpleasant member who bubbles on persistently from the bilges of Sloane life.
OBTUND (a) To blunt, deaden, dull, deprive of sharpness and vigour, and generally do the Monday morning thing, from the Latin *obtusare* to make blunt; chiefly in medical use.
ZIMMERWALDIAN (c) A proponent of internationalism as a way to prevent war, from the International Socialist Congress in Zimmerwald in 1916.

CONCERTS

TEMIKANOV/RPO: The RPO is conducted by Yuri Temirkanov in Berlioz's *Le Corsaire Overture*, Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 with Cecilia Licad as soloist and the 1947 version of Stravinsky's *Petroushka*. Royal Festival Hall, Tues, 7.30pm.

SALOMON SELECTIONS: Howard Williams conducts the Salomon Orchestra in Rossini's *Il Viaggio a Reims* Overture, Messiah's *Hymn au Saint-Sacrement* Ravel's Piano Concerto for the Left Hand (Angela Brownridge, soloist) and Tippett's Symphony No. 2. An enterprising programme. St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1061). Tues, 8pm.

MOK'S MOZART: Gwendolyn Mok solos in Mozart's Piano Concerto K 488 with the LSO under Geoffrey Simon. Fore and aft: Richard Strauss's *Rosenkavalier* Suite and Beethoven's Symphony No. 7. Barbican Centre, Thurs, 7.45pm.

HOFFMUNG REVIVAL: In a revival of the Hilarious Hoffmung Festival (there's another one the following day) the Philharmonia Orchestra, with many celebrity guests, plays such prank-filled parodies as the *Concerto Popolare*, *Metamorphosis* on a Bedtime Theme. Royal Festival Hall, 7.30pm.

KREMER/ARGERICH: In an unusually distinguished teaming Gidon Kremer and Martha Argerich perform Franck's Violin Sonata, Schumann's Sonata No. 1, Barok's Sonata No. 1. Barbican Centre Friday, 7.45pm.

THE SELF-PORTRAIT: Sixty contemporary artists, from sculptors Anthony Caro and Glynn Williams to painters Amanda Faulkner and Mary Mabbutt, have submitted self-portraits to this absorbing theme show. City Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent (0782 202173). From today.

EDWARD MIDDLETON: (1923-1987): A retrospective for a painter best known for social realist, so-called Kitchen Sink, paintings in the 1950s. Plymouth Art Gallery (0752 660060). From today.

HAIL HAIL ROCK 'N' ROLL: (PG) Documentary tribute to Chuck Berry — a seamless blend of performance footage (mostly shot at Berry's 60th birthday concert) and articulate interviews with rock personnel. Directed by Taylor Hackford. Plaza (01-437-1234). From Fri.

FILMS

WITHNAIL AND I (15): Knockabout British comedy about two out-of-work British actors trying to maintain sanity at the end of the 60s. Written and directed by Bruce Robinson with Paul McGann, Richard E. Grant, Odette Hayward (01-930-2738). From Fri.

THE QUARTERED MAN: Donald Freed's new play, *The Quartered Man*, now previewing at the Shaw Theatre, is dedicated to Harold Pinter. It was Pinter who directed Faye Dunaway in Freed's last play to be seen in London, *Circé* and Bravo, and he will be making one of his rare stage appearances in Freed's next play, *Veterans' Day*, acting opposite Jack Lemmon.

Freed enthusiastically explains his gratitude to Pinter. "He saw my film *Secret Honor* (set in the White House where Richard Nixon is dictating his last tape). Then he read *Circé* and offered to direct it. His name helped to get the play on, so of course I dedicated my next one to him. It's because of his interest we could assemble such a strong cast for *The Quartered Man*."

The title translates *decurtatio*, the term for an all-inclusive mutilation, psychological as well as physical. "It's the CIA code name for a destabilizing campaign," says Freed.

The title also describes the central character, a senior CIA officer, played by Barry Foster, increasingly reluctant to carry out the instructions of his Wash-

DANCE

ROSEMARY BUTCHER: An individual British new wave choreographer presents two of her works, with music by Michael Nyman. Queen Elizabeth Hall (01-928 3191), tomorrow, 7.30pm.

SPRING LOADED: Nine small companies have one night stands in London this week: Images (the Place Mon), DV8 (Wed, Hackney Empire) and Immigrant Dancers Group (Fri Hackney Empire). Full programmes from (01-387 0031).

PARIS, TEXAS (1984): Harry Dean Stanton and Nastassia Kinski in Wim Wenders's haunting, enigmatic study of alienation. Channel 4, Thurs, 9.30pm-12.15am.

● Gerard Depardieu (above) won the best actor award at the 1985 Venice Film Festival with his many-layered portrayal of the tough Paris cop who becomes involved with a compulsive liar and thief (played by Sophie Marceau) in *Police*. Maurice Pialat's vivid, atmospheric thriller, filmed with documentary realism and using improvised dialogue, is having its first showing on British television. Channel 4, Friday, midnight-2.10am.



WALKS

HIDDEN CURIOUS AND COURTYARDS OF OLD LONDON: meet today, St Paul's tube, 11am, 22.50.

JEWISH EAST END - ROOTS IN TIMELESS STREETS: meet today, Aldgate tube, 11am, £3.

JACK THE RIPPER AND ELEPHANT MAN MYSTERIES: meet tomorrow, Aldgate tube, 11am, £3.

ROCK

THE SCREAMING BLUE MESSIAHS: A hit at last with "I Wanna Be A Finkstone". Tonight, International, Manchester (061 22 5050); tomorrow, Leicester University (0533 556282); Mon, Warehouse, Leeds (0532 46827); Tues, Sheffield University (0742 24076); Wed, Rock, Nottingham (0502 412544); Fri, Town & Country, London NW5 (01-267 3334).

HANG GRUFFITH: Texan "folkabilly" singer in a *Lone Star State Of Mind*. Tonight and tomorrow, Acoustic Room, Mean Fiddler, London NW10 (01-961 5490).

CHUCK BERRY: This week sees the publication of his extraordinary, non-ghosted autobiography *Chuck Berry and the launch of the film of his life, Mail Hail Rock 'n' Roll*. Fri, Hammersmith Odeon, London W6 (01-748 4081).

WOOZY HERMAN TRIBUTE: The National Youth Orchestra pays homage to the late bandleader with clarinetist Buddy de Franco. Barbican Centre, London EC2 (01-628 8795), Tue.

ANDY SHEPPARD: One of the best of the new home-grown saxophonists. Dingwalls, London NW1 (01-267 4967), tonight; Queen's Hall, Edinburgh (031 668 2019), Fri.

JEAN TOUSSAINT: The forceful ex-Blaisey tenorist is joined by trumpeter Dusko Goykovich. Bass Clef, London N1 (01-728 2476), Wed.

TELEVISION

SURVIVAL SPECIAL: David Bellamy reports from the Flow Country in the north of Scotland where wildlife is under threat from huge forestry schemes. ITV, Tues, 10.35-11.35pm.

PHOTOGRAPHY

HIROKUBOTA: For six years, Japanese photographer Hirokubota had free access to China. These lush colour pictures are the results of those years. Full of life and vitality they present an extraordinary face of China. Barbican Centre, London EC2 (01-638 4141), until March 6.

ROY DECARAVAX: Urban American life covering 40 years; simple insight into human nature. Photographers Gallery, 5 & 6 Great Newport Street, London WC2 (01-631 1772), until Feb 27.

ROGER MAYNE - STREET PHOTOGRAPHERS: A document of street life from 1955-61. Not to be missed. Oldham Art Gallery, Union Street, Oldham (061 678 4853), until Feb 21.

BOOKINGS

FIRST CHANCE

BACH ST MATTHEW PASSION: Performances by Monteverdi choir and English baroque soloists under John Clark Gardner, and David Wilcockson conducts Bach Choir and English Chamber Orchestra with Robert Tear and David Wilson-Johnson. March 20, 23 and 27. South Bank Centre, London SE1 (01-928 3191) (01-528 8800 credit cards).

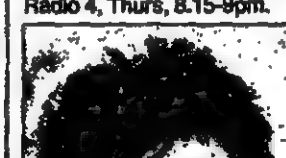
A THEME WITH VARIATIONS: Booking for March concerts in

RADIO

THE YEAR OF DREAMS: The feminist contribution to the turbulent year of 1968 is recalled by Gloria Steinem, Betty Friedan, Katharine Whitcomb and Jill Tweedie. Radio 4, Wed, 11-11.47am.

ANALYSIS: Michael Checkland, Director-General of the BBC, is interviewed by Peter Hennessy on issues in public service broadcasting. Radio 4, Thurs, 8.15-9pm.

● Susan Fleetwood (above) stars with Geoffrey Palmer in *Madame Aubrey's Principles*, a play by Alexandre Dumas, son of the creator of *The Three Musketeers*. Set in a hotel in the north of France, the play explores the clash between principles and family duty as Madame Aubrey, a high-minded supporter of the well-being of young unmarried mothers, discovers that her son has fallen in love with one. Radio 3, Tuesday, 9.05-11pm.



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A story of divide and rule



Destabilising effects: Shelley King as the wife of a senior CIA man played by Barry Foster in *The Quartered Man*.

Donald Freed's new play, *The Quartered Man*, now previewing at the Shaw Theatre, is dedicated to Harold Pinter. It was Pinter who directed Faye Dunaway in Freed's last play to be seen in London, *Circé* and Bravo, and he will be making one of his rare stage appearances in Freed's next play, *Veterans' Day*, acting opposite Jack Lemmon.

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The title translates *decurtatio*, the term for an all-inclusive mutilation, psychological as well as physical. "It's the CIA code name for a destabilizing campaign," says Freed.

The title also describes the central character, a senior CIA officer, played by Barry Foster, increasingly reluctant to carry out the instructions of his Wash-

ington superiors. In Freed's experience, the illegal actions of his country's secret police constitute the real threat to democracy. They, the "radicals" or "lefties", are the true subversives.

Born in Chicago in the Thirties, a former actor and teacher always active on the left of American politics, he aroused the interest of the FBI when his play about the Rosenberg spy trial, *Inquest*, arrived on Broadway in 1969. Documents obtained as a result of the Freedom of Information Act show memoranda passing between the department and the FBI, and letters from the trial judge to Edgar J. Hoover accumulating "background information on the gentleman responsible for writing the play".

In a direct confrontation with the CIA, Freed's book *Death in Washington* accused a former spook of trying to cover up the CIA's alleged advance knowledge of the plan to assassinate the distinguished Chilean exile, Orlando Letelier. What began as a \$200-million libel suit ended with Freed being required to pay \$1.

him to work harder. Looking relaxed and genial in the Green Room of the Shaw Theatre, gingerly holding a mug of English tea before joining the actors for a morning rehearsal, he spoke briefly of his latest play *The White Crow*, to star Julie Harris and Tim Pigott-Smith in 1989. Subtitled *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, it imagines a preliminary interview before the Holocaust experts arrive, during which the received idea of Eichmann as an obedient bureaucrat, emotionally uninvolved, is sharply overturned.

It is a play in which Freed tries to explore the origin of Fascism and racism because, as he says, recalling the ancient Greek theatre and quoting the French theorist of drama, Artaud: "We are not free, and the sky could still fall on our heads, and the theatre has been created to teach us this first of all."

Jeremy Kingston

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

Continued from facing page

SATURDAY

BBC1 12.30-1.30pm Sports
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SATURDAY

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

SUNDAY

● Though it is 30 years to the day since it happened, Sir Matt Busby still dreads the anniversary of the crash at Munich Airport which killed eight of his young Manchester United footballers. Interviewed for *Manchester Remembered* (ITV, 1.35pm), Sir Matt, now 78, can hardly bring himself to talk about the incident without choking back tears. He says his first reaction after surviving the crash was never to have anything to do with football again; and he declares that the mental scars will never heal. The Munich tragedy was not just an appalling loss of life but the destruction of a brilliant club side (the

CHOICE

"Busby babes") and the premature end of enormous individual talent, like that of Duncan Edwards, already an established international and dead at 21. This is a sympathetic and poignant documentary, which even manages a flash of humour as United's Irish goalkeeper, Harry Gregg, recalls his thoughts when the aircraft went down: "I am going to get killed in Germany. I cannot speak the language." Gregg survived the crash. As the programme wryly recalls, he has just been sacked as manager of Carlisle.

Peter Waymark

Sir Matt Busby looks back on the air crash in which eight of his "babes" died: *Manchester Remembered*, ITV, 1.35pmNot for British viewers: the American evangelist Jimmy Swaggart, in *Everyman*, on BBC1, 10.30pm

CHOICE

● For the past four years, Jim Woolsey, a smooth-talking emissary from the American television evangelist, Jimmy Swaggart, has been trying to persuade the BBC to take his master's show. It has been sold to 148 countries, including China, but the British channels have so far resisted. Swaggart's man is persuasive: "This is not just television but a matter of eternal life and death". The BBC's John Whale replies that he has only an hour each Sunday for religious programmes and cannot turn it over to one kind of preaching. Whale adds that his job is to report religion, rather than promote it. The Independent Broadcasting Authority takes a similar line. A pertinent question is whether the British public, used to the bland and comforting style of *Songs of Praise*, actually wants its religion served up as a cross between an entertainment spectacular and a Nuremberg rally. But already, British evangelists are making their own programmes in the Swaggart mould. Reporting for *Everyman* (BBC1, 10.30pm), the guest is Rosemary Harthill, who in the long run, the BBC and IBA opposition could be irrelevant, circumscribed by the growth of cable and satellite.

P.W.

BBC1	BBC2	ITV/LONDON	CHANNEL 4	BBC1	BBC2	ITV/LONDON	CHANNEL 4
<p>7.10 Open University.</p> <p>8.25 Saturday Starts Here with <i>Comers</i> (r). 8.40 <i>Toland's Rex Race</i>. 9.00 <i>Kleyster</i>.</p> <p>9.30 Going Live! Includes the first heat of the BBC Young Entertainer of the Year competition. 12.12 <i>Weather</i>.</p> <p>12.15 Grandstand introduced by Desmond Lynam. The line-up is (subject to alteration):</p> <p>12.20 Football Focus: 12.45, 2.25 and 4.00 Rugby Union: a preview of today's internationals, live coverage of England v Wales and highlights of Scotland v France; 1.00 News; 1.05 Boasting: the WBA welterweight championship fight between Michael Starling and Fulgjo Ozark; 1.35 Half-time; 4.40 Final score.</p> <p>5.05 News with Moira Stuart. Weather, 5.15 Regional news, 5.30 <i>Frost</i> Classic. The first of a new schools video quiz, Beaumont Leys from Leicester play Mill Hill of north London.</p> <p>5.45 <i>Jim'll Fix It</i>. Among those for whom Jimmy Savile files it is a 55-year-old who missed his national service passing out parade. (Coefix)</p> <p>6.30 <i>The Little and Large Show</i>. The guests for this first of a new series include Paul Henry and Johnny Hates Jazz. (Coefix)</p> <p>6.55 <i>Sony</i> (r). (Coefix)</p> <p>7.25 <i>The Paul Daniels Magic Show</i> from Blackpool Tower Circus. The studio guests are Richard Rods and Mummenschanz. (Coefix)</p> <p>8.10 <i>Bergeret</i>. The Jersey detective teams up with an unorthodox London police officer when a dead body is found in an unused cottage. (Coefix)</p> <p>9.05 News and sport. With Moira Stuart. Weather.</p> <p>9.30 <i>Cagney and Lacey</i>. The two policewomen are made to feel second class citizens by colleagues and the men in their lives.</p> <p>9.40 <i>Carroll Confidential</i>. Jasper Carroll takes a very close look at life.</p> <p>9.45 <i>Frost Classic</i> (1980) starring: Timothy Dalton. A made-for-television drama about an attempt to escape from a supposedly escape-proof prison in Mexico. Directed by Robert Lewis.</p> <p>9.50am <i>Weather</i>.</p>	<p>7.15 Open University 11.00 <i>Coefix</i>.</p> <p>1.30 <i>Network East</i> carries young artists in this country are returning to their roots, and Ayub Khan Din talks about his role in the film <i>Sannyas</i> and <i>Rosie Got Laid</i>.</p> <p>2.10 <i>Film Gone With the Wind</i> (1939) starring Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh. Spectacular love story set against the background of the American Civil War. Directed by Victor Fleming. (Coefix)</p> <p>5.45 <i>España Viva</i>. Spanish for beginners series presented by Yolanda Viscuza (r).</p> <p>6.10 <i>The Week in the Lords</i>.</p> <p>6.30 <i>NewsView</i> with Moira Stuart and Richard Whitting. Weather.</p> <p>7.30 <i>Sinfonietta 20</i>. A concert celebrating the 20th birthday of the London Sinfonietta. Highlights of the celebration are the television premieres of Simon Holt's <i>Bellied of the Black Scarrow</i> and Hans Werner Henze's <i>The English Car</i>. Other works include Stravinsky's <i>Agon</i>, Olivier Messiaen's <i>Byzantine Court and Lament</i> by Bernstein's <i>Fudge, Fudge and Riffs</i>. Presenter Sue Cook meets some of the performers and composers who have shaped the orchestra's personality including their first conductor, David Atherton, pianist Paul Cressley, Simon Rattle and the artistic director of the past 10 years, Michael Vyner.</p> <p>8.15 <i>Fast Forward</i>. Comedy. Three starring Robbie Coltrane as the leader of an ageing rock 'n' roll band on an anniversary tour of Scotland (r). (Coefix)</p> <p>10.15 <i>Film: Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid</i> (1956, b/w) starring Robert Redford and Paul Newman. A drama about a prostitute who allows herself to be taken by a young woman who reminds her of her dead daughter to a mansion where the girl lives alone. Directed by George Roy Hill. (Coefix)</p> <p>11.00 <i>Night Network</i>. Includes film, record and video reviews, pop music, competitions and a quiz. (Coefix)</p> <p>12.00 <i>Film: Johnny O'Clock</i> (1947, b/w) starring Dick Fowles, Lee J Cobb and Evelyn Kaye. A thriller about a gambler who becomes a suspect when a crooked policeman is killed in Mexico. Directed by Robert Lewis. Ends at 1.35am.</p>	<p>8.00 TV-am. Cartoons and other family entertainment.</p> <p>8.25 <i>773</i>. For the young. 11.00 <i>Top Gear</i> (r). 11.30 <i>Rocky</i> - The Network Chart Show (r). 12.00 <i>The Fall Guy</i>. Adventures of a stuntman. 1.00 News with Moira Stuart. 1.05 <i>Boasting</i>. 1.35 <i>Munch</i> Remembered (see Choice). 2.15 <i>Nearest and Dearest</i>. Vintage comedy-drama series starring Billy Baker and Jimmy Jewel (r). 2.45 <i>International Athletics</i>. The Dairy Crest Games between Great Britain and France presented by Jim Rosenthal. 4.45 <i>Radio Scotland</i> with Elyon Walsby. 5.00 News 5.05 <i>LWT News</i> and weather followed by <i>Wall Street</i> Presents. A Donald Duck cartoon. 5.30 <i>Backstairs</i>. General knowledge quiz for managers. 5.30 <i>The A-Team</i>. The weatherable quartet come to the rescue of a mother persecuted minority (r). 6.45 <i>Catchphrase</i>. Hi-tech quiz show presented by Roy Walker. (Oracle) 7.15 <i>Film: The Man With the Golden Gun</i> (1974) starring Roger Moore as James Bond. In this adventure to kill a professional assassin in the Far East. Directed by Guy Hamilton. 8.35 <i>News and sport</i>. 9.50 <i>LWT Weather</i>. 9.55 <i>Angel & Company</i>. Tonight's guest is Elizabeth Taylor. 10.40 <i>The World According to Smith and Jones</i>. Mel and Griff investigate education. 11.10 <i>Film: Secret Ceremony</i> (1988) starring Elizabeth Berkley. Robert Mitchum and Mia Farrow. A drama about a prostitute who allows herself to be taken by a young woman who reminds her of her dead daughter to a mansion where the girl lives alone. Directed by George Roy Hill. (Coefix)</p> <p>11.00 <i>Night Network</i>. Includes film, record and video reviews, pop music, competitions and a quiz. (Coefix)</p> <p>12.00 <i>Film: Johnny O'Clock</i> (1947, b/w) starring Dick Fowles, Lee J Cobb and Evelyn Kaye. A thriller about a gambler who becomes a suspect when a crooked policeman is killed in Mexico. Directed by Robert Lewis. Ends at 1.35am.</p>	<p>8.25 <i>Movie Match</i> (colour and b/w). The first of two programmes tracing the history of the Gwaii in Indian films.</p> <p>10.00 <i>The World This Week</i>. 11.00 <i>Pop's</i> Programme for children. The guest is Cheryl Campbell. 11.30 <i>The Wednesday 12.30</i>. A P.S. Magazine series for managers. 1.30 <i>Lost in Space</i> (b/w). Episode one of a 25-part wacky adventure series about an outer space family Robinson (r). 2.30 <i>The Perfectionists</i>. Part one of a new episode love story set against the background of India under the British Raj. Starring Ben Cross, Frank Whithard and Christopher Lee (r). 4.30 <i>The Lion and the Ox</i>. A Russian animated film. 4.40 <i>Cartoon</i>. A new series of the arts quiz presented by George Melly. This afternoon the resident experts, Frank Hammersley, a new series of the arts quiz presented by George Melly. This afternoon the resident experts, Frank Hammersley, a new series of the arts quiz presented by George Melly. This afternoon the resident experts, Frank Hammersley, a new series of the arts quiz presented by George Melly. This afternoon the resident experts, Frank Hammersley, a new series of the arts quiz presented by George Melly. This afternoon the resident experts, Frank Hammersley, a new series of the arts quiz presented by George Melly. 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Takeover hinges on Abdullahs



Coming together: Doug Rogers of Newman Tonks (centre), with Tom Dodd (left) and Angus Clark of Henderson yesterday (Photograph: James Gray)

Tonks agrees £77m bid for Henderson

By Cliff Feltman

Newman Tonks Group, the engineering company, ended a 10-year wait yesterday and launched a £77 million takeover bid for Henderson Group, which makes garage doors and security equipment.

Henderson backed the offer and said the two companies made a perfect fit. But the bid hinges on the reaction of Evered Holdings — the conglomerate run by the Abdullah brothers, Raschid and Osman — which has a 24 per cent stake in Henderson.

The Abdullahs said they were considering their options, pointing out that they were in a "good position to influence the way things go". But market observers do not believe Evered will launch a counter-offer and suggest it may try to squeeze more cash out of Newman Tonks.

The offer — which has the support of holders of 18 per cent of the Henderson shares, of which the lion's share is represented by the Framlington Group's 13 per cent — is in the form of cash and paper and values Henderson shares at 341p.

In the stock market the shares, which have moved ahead recently on speculation that a bid was imminent, jumped 16p to 345p. At this level the Abdullahs, thought to have paid an average of about 335p, are barely breaking even after financing costs.

Mr Doug Rogers, the chief executive of Newman Tonks, said: "We will be meeting the Abdullahs in the next few days to explain the position. I have no idea what their reaction is or what they may do. But I think there is a compelling argument for this deal going ahead."

He said a deal had been on the cards for the past 10 years.

Mr Angus Clark, one of the joint managing directors of Henderson, along with Mr Tom Dodd, said: "Their results were good so we felt we could go to our shareholders and tell them this was a deal worth recommending. The fit between the two companies is very good. There is little overlap."

Henderson earned pretax profits of £4.4 million on turnover of £87 million last year.

Newman Tonks, which has grown with a string of acquisitions, makes door fittings and other products sold through the building trade. It raised pretax profits 21 per cent last year to a record £14 million.

Phoenix agrees Clegg's £61m bid

Mr Tony Clegg's Mountleigh Group has confirmed it is to take over the much smaller Phoenix Properties and Finance in an agreed £61 million bid.

The two companies have worked together on a number of deals and at one time Phoenix was trying to buy Mountleigh's £100 million Stockley Park industrial site.

As part of the get-together, Mr John Duggan, the architect of Phoenix's recent rise, steps on to the Mountleigh board, and effectively becomes second in command under Mr Clegg, the chairman.

Mountleigh is offering a mixture of cash and paper for Phoenix, valuing the shares at 166p against a market price — before dealings were halted — of 131p. Nearly 17 per cent of Phoenix shareholders are backing the bid and the board is recommending others to accept.

Phoenix, which took over Rohan, the Irish developer, last year for £44 million, made pretax profits of £2.5 million during the first nine months of the year.

The company's portfolio includes commercial properties in the Irish Republic, office developments at Camberley, Surrey, and Swindon, Wiltshire, as well as two industrial estates in Derbyshire.

Mr Duggan, aged 38 and at present chief executive of Phoenix, said: "We have worked successfully on joint developments with Mountleigh over the last few weeks, so decided to talk about a deal."

Mountleigh, which sprang to prominence when it considered bidding for the Storehouse shops chain, made pretax profits of £3.4 million in the first half of this year.

The company has gained a reputation as a property trader but is expected to concentrate more on development projects

Thomson T-line team scoops the pools with a £90m stake

Hugo Biermann is tall, slim and South African, Julian Askin is rounder, fair and English. Both are 39. When last seen (by me) they were excited, smiling and just a little tense. Robert Sangster came through on the telephone. He had returned on the previous day from Barbados and intended to dine at the Dorchester. When could he sign the documents? Wherever he was they would call him, immediately Hambros and the prescribed clutch of lawyers, brokers and accountants were ready. Askin and Biermann were about to pull off a remarkable deal.

After working through the night the prize was theirs. At 7.50am yesterday, the day their £1 option expired, Thomson T-Line, a small, scarcely known company where they are joint chairmen, annexed for £90 million of their own paper the Vernons empire that Robert Sangster had inherited. He would walk away, his huge debts repaid and with between £20 million and £25 million.

In Askin's view, "one of the great private businesses left" had fallen to them: not a view that the betting and gaming fraternity, green with envy, would dispute. The acquisition transforms Thomson — so much so that Hambros has insisted that it resumes its Stock Exchange life on March 4 as virtually a new company. The transformation is reflected in the price of 70p at which new ordinary shares involved in the deal with Sangster will be offered to Thomson shareholders. Advisers argued that a price-earnings ratio of 11 was right and 70p automatically became the starting price. When the existing Thomson shares were suspended, at Thomson's request, on Monday, the price was 108p. The offer is at least twice oversubscribed, suggesting that these odds may be met. If so, Thomson will have added to its fund of institutional shareholder goodwill which Askin and Biermann may feel that they have been mugged!

Robert Sangster, now 51, remains one of the leading figures in international horse racing and breeding. He has also been a regular runner in the matrimonial stakes. Through the sports pages, gossip columns and the medium of television he has become a national figure, amiable, admired and envied. His ownership of The Vernons Organisation, and its principal division



KENNETH FLEET

Vernons Pools, was less widely known, perhaps because his active involvement has been minimal. Vernons has been more than adequately looked after by Kenneth Paul, deputy chairman since 1986, with Trevor Thatcher under him as managing director of Vernons Pools. Robert Sangster and his private office, a team with life styles appropriate to the sport of kings, have focused on financially supporting his racing and bloodstock activities through the family business.

About a year ago the interest costs of sustaining Sangster's stud and stable became too great for Vernons to bear. At their peak his loans topped £70 million. Among "items not relating to the Vernons Group" for the year ended July 31, 1987, "other interest payable" of £4,113,000 — slightly lower than in the previous year when the figure was £4,213,000. Sangster was faced with a choice: sell his horses or sell the family business.

The climate for selling horses, especially if he were known to be a forced seller, was not good. He has cut his string but the alternative — selling a business to which he was not greatly attached, except as a means to other ends — was always the better bet.

he pools business had been started in 1926 by AE Sangster and taken over in 1929 by his son, Vernon, who died at the end of 1986. Robert, Vernon's only son, had wanted to float the company in 1972, in cahoots with Ladbrokes, Corals and Sears (William Hill). A week before the offer his father refused. Robert from that point switched his attentions and energies to bloodstock.

His racing, bloodstock and other commercial interests are now set apart in Sangster Group Limited.

In two years Askin and Biermann have transformed a loss-making timber merchant employing 50 people into a profitable industrial holding company with five trading divisions.

In addition to the pools business, the Vernons Group includes Norman &

Burgess, a volume printing business, and Vernons Distributions, which provides direct mail and marketing services. Profit before tax in the year ending last July 31 was £7.4 million, but a more realistic figure is probably £9.8 million. The pools business is the prize: no stock, no risk, no competition. Three companies account for practically all pools betting: Littlewoods, with 75 per cent of the money staked, followed by Vernons with 21 per cent and Zetters with 3 per cent. Weekly prize money cannot exceed the stakes after pools betting duty. This rule makes it exceedingly difficult for new companies to enter the business.

As the Royal Commission on Gambling in 1968 perceptively observed, for a new and independent operator "prizes will be paltry until he can attract a large number of punters, but he is unable to attract punters until he can offer the prospect of substantial prizes". The three established companies virtually have a franchise to collect money.

They take a percentage of turnover: Zetters 4.9, Vernons 4.2 and Littlewoods 2.9. But the main financial characteristic of a pools business is its capacity to generate cash flow with minimal working capital.

Although it would not be strictly true to say that Vernons has suffered under a regime of benign neglect, Askin and Biermann would be less than observant if they did not see scope for raising returns through more sophisticated cash management, cost control and the emphasis on a properly run public company has to put on maximizing profits. Every Saturday during the British soccer season some £2.5 million is waiting to be deposited on Monday!

Not only does Vernons have a large customer database (2-2.5 million punters) and 35,000 part-time self-employed collectors, it also possesses highly sophisticated computer systems.

Thomson has undoubtedly acquired a valuable property. Had the ebullient Askin bought Vernons simply to sell it on? "Certainly not. We intend to develop the total business, internally and through acquisitions."

The Askin £1 option must rank as the golden share of the decade. The offers already received for the Vernons Group far exceed the £90 million Thomson T-Line paid yesterday.

Paribas enters 'La Générale' fray

From Jonathan Brande

Paribas, the French banking group, yesterday emerged as a possible ally for Signor Carlo de Benedetti, the Italian businessman, in his battle for control of Société Générale de Belgique, Belgium's largest company. Compagnie Financière de Suez, Paribas' French rival, joined the struggle on Thursday.

Signor de Benedetti, who sits on the Suez board, is said to have turned to Paribas for support after learning that Suez had taken 10 per cent of "La Générale".

Paribas, via Cobepe, its Belgian subsidiary, controls Gevaert, the Belgian group whose chairman, Mr André Lysen, has offered to share control of Société Générale with Signor de Benedetti.

However, the Gevaert chairman now looks to be in an increasingly weak position. It is thought unlikely that he will obtain the go-ahead for his offer to purchase 10 million new Société Générale shares, issued two weeks ago as a "poison pill" to dilute Signor de Benedetti's holding.

The share issue was declared illegal by the com-

mercial court, and an appeal ruling, due on Tuesday, is widely expected to uphold the judgment.

The exact role played by Paribas is still unclear. However, observers believe that the bank may now be going over Mr Lysen's head to work directly with Signor de Benedetti.

Meanwhile, a Suez delegation paid a pro forma visit to M Philippe Maystadt, the Belgian minister for economic affairs, to present its credentials as a new partner in Société Générale.

Potential buyers queue up for Crown Suppliers

By Colin Narborough

The speed with which well-known companies have joined the list of would-be contenders for The Crown Suppliers (TCS) comes as a surprise, given analysts' lack of enthusiasm about this latest privatisation candidate.

Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, through his Hollis group, was the first in the line-up after the Government announced plans on Wednesday to sell off core parts of its central buying agency.

Close behind was Hills-

down Holdings, the property, food and furniture group, and yesterday Williams Holdings, the Derby-based conglomerate, was also named, possibly prematurely, as an interested party. A management buyout team is also in the queue.

But, while the Government expects the sale to bring it about £100 million, City analysts have still to be convinced that the agency is worth that much.

Mr Richard Harwood, an analyst with Morgan Grenfell

Securities, said too many people probably harboured grave suspicions about a company that had a small of Whitehall's "green paint" lingering over it.

Perhaps it would be better for a management buyout to take it on than to sell it to outsiders, he said.

After all, TCS represents only some £74 million of assets, about 1,800 civil servants, and whatever goodwill the trading fund is perceived to have.

Its two main businesses,

furnishings and furniture, and the smaller 3,000-vehicle transport hire operation, would split easily into two parts.

As the numbers of civil servants have declined and Whitehall departments have been freed from buying from TCS, the agency's turnover has fallen. In the year to last April, turnover was £241 million, some £3 million down on the previous year. Profits rose, however, by more than £1 million to £4.9 million, but still fell short of the level seen in the early 1980s.

TCS, which has been largely responsible for furnishing many public buildings, including the House of Commons and British embassies, has regional operations in Cardiff and Glasgow.

Its main business has been the bulk purchasing for the public sector of furniture, furnishings and floor-coverings. It also supplies domestic appliances, electrical, mechanical and laboratory equipment, building materials, heating fuels and transport.

TEMPUS

Strong medicine for Oceonics as it goes into intensive care

During the 18 months Mr Peter Laister has presided over Oceonics Group, the company has been fighting for its life through one of the worst recessions ever experienced in the offshore supplies industries.

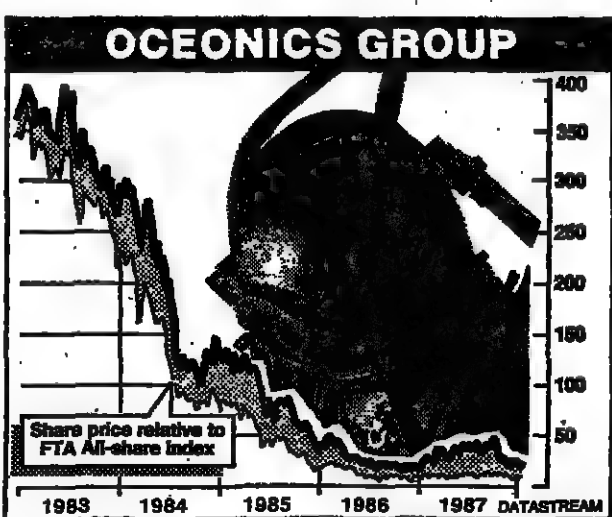
The interim results show that the battle has been well fought — but not yet decisively won. Group turnover was down by a third, with most of the reduction in offshore services. After two-and-a-half years of heavy losses, the group is heavily borrowed with a deficit on distributable reserves.

Enter the company doctors with strong medicine to be taken intravenously. In exchange for a £7.5 million cash injection, the new investing group will gain control of 66 per cent of the company. Given the subscription price of 10p a share, compared with the current market price of 19p, the existing shareholders' interests will be considerably diluted. But it does offer the possibility of a dynamic future, rather than the probability of a lingering death by capital starvation.

Oceonics' main business comprises the supply of underwater surveying and geopositioning services, originally to the offshore oil and gas industry. The crashing oil price caused the oil companies to cut back severely on their exploration programmes, with a painful knock-on effect on Oceonics. The company had to retrench severely to stay afloat.

Since then, it has been diversifying its customer base to reduce its reliance on oil and gas. Its biggest new market is in telecommunications, such as surveys for underwater telephone lines.

After the contraction in the oil industry, the total world market for offshore services is very much smaller than it was, but there are also many fewer competitors. Since the withdrawal of Hunting, Oceonics and Racal stand head and shoulders above the rest of their competitors in terms of size. Oceonics now has about 30 per cent of the market for



the supply of underwater surveying and geopositioning services. Apart from Racal, the rest of the competition is very fragmented, consisting of a large number of very small companies.

Despite the still ailing oil price, there are signs that the drilling market has stabilized. Oceonics has also invested heavily in its secure communications business, which it sells to Nato and the Ministry of Defence.

The new investing group has ambitions to expand through acquisition, and the shares should prove to be a good recovery stock.

Glass Glover

An unfortunate concurrence of circumstances has caused profits to tumble at Glass Glover, the food group. Trading profits fell by £1 million to £2.5 million. The leading supermarket chains are taking an increasing share of the market in fresh produce, which should be good news for Glass Glover.

But as they have increased their market share, the supermarkets have also increased the demands they make on their suppliers in terms of the quality of produce, presentation, packaging and hygiene.

To satisfy the improving quality requirements and keep up with accelerating demand, the company has had to spend a small fortune moving out of

despite further property gains, earnings could decline further.

After last year's sale and leaseback deal, the balance sheet is strong. The debt-equity ratio is just under 10 per cent. The shares fell 22p yesterday to 180p. But the prospective multiple is still probably around 14 and the shares could fall further.

Portsmouth and Sunderland

Worries that last October's stock market crash might hurt consumer spending, and hence the amount of advertising revenue that flowed into Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers, have proved unfounded.

Advertising — the group's main revenue earner, contributing more than 40 per cent of turnover — is still growing.

At the same time, the near-£20 million that Portsmouth and Sunderland has ploughed into new plant and equipment over the past five years — a new high-quality colour press will come on stream at Portsmouth in June — continues to reap rewards.

In addition to publishing the *News* in Portsmouth, the *Echo* in Sunderland, the *Mail* in Hartlepool, four paid-for weekly titles and a further 10 free weeklies, the company has gained a firm foothold in contract printing.

It currently rolls off southern copies for the *Independent*, the *Guardian* and the *Observer*. Combined with good growth in the group's convenience shops, profits have boomed. But Portsmouth and Sunderland now needs a fresh boost to maintain its advance.

But the company does have plans. It is opening more shops, looking at new publishing ventures and hopes that a national daily might soon take up its spare printing capacity in Sunderland. The market, which added another 7p to the company's shares yesterday to take them up to 275p, is impressed by the company's recovery and is still giving it the benefit of the doubt.

"BES is only for 60% taxpayers." RUBBISH!

"Why do we say that?"

Because we feel very strongly that no one should invest in a BES company because of tax relief. You should invest because it looks a good five year investment. If it is, then you should be delighted to get tax relief at 27%. Of course you will be even more delighted if your tax rate is 60%.

"How does BES work?"

Johnson Fry are the UK's largest sponsor of Business Expansion Schemes (BES) — a system of tax free investment in new business. You invest your money in BES Issues and deduct the total cost right off the top of your tax bill. Not only do you make considerable tax savings but you are also investing in some of the most exciting and promising new companies around.

"But aren't BES investments risky?"

There is an element of risk in all investment. However, very few start-up companies have the same benefits as those under the BES — starting off with no borrowings and a load of cash in the pot. So far only 4% of BES companies who have raised money through prospectuses have gone bust (none of which were Johnson Fry Issues) — this is well below the national average for companies in general.

"Give me one good mathematical reason why I should invest in BES rather than quoted shares."

Assume that you are a 60% taxpayer, already using all your Capital Gains allowance. The FT30 Index over five years to 1st October '87 rose 321% — one of the greatest equity bull markets ever. Mind you, to 1st November '87 the rise is a more modest 223%. Assuming a gross BES investment doubles over 5 years (i.e. 100% growth), which is the minimum target for our Issues, then an equity investment would have to rise by 560% in the five year period to equate to the net return to you from the BES investment (after allowing for Capital Gains Tax and 4%

indexation on the straight equity investment). A 560% rise or a 100% rise: which is more likely over 5 years? You choose.

"How do I choose from so many Issues?"

If you find this difficult, leave it to our discretion by investing in *The Third Johnson Fry BES*.

"I've never invested in BES before. How do I go about getting more information?"

Just tick the box for our 'BES for Beginners' pack or call 01-439 0924 and ask for more information on BES and our new Issues.

BES Checklist.

- Max. £40,000. Min. £500. ● Tax relief at top rates.
- No Capital Gains Tax on profits.
- Tax benefits lost if not held for 5 years.
- Invest before 5 April for tax relief 1987/8.

Name _____				
Address _____				
Postcode _____				
Daytime tel. _____				
Please send me a prospectus for:				
Company	Open	Closes	Comment	
†Fownes Hotels	Open	14.3	Quality hotels. 2nd hotel identified	<input type="checkbox"/>
County Resort Hotels	Open	15.2	£3.5m subscribed in first two weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>
†Edinburgh Tankers	Open	19.2	Second tranche finance	<input type="checkbox"/>
Northern Indep. Hospitals	Open	26.2	Min. £1.2m exceeded in 7 days	<input type="checkbox"/>
†Fast Forward Inns	Open	4.3	Very popular 1987 issue	<input type="checkbox"/>
Echo Hotel	Open	11.3	Glasgow £20m hotel	<input type="checkbox"/>
First Choice Retirement Homes	9.2	14.3	Property Development in South East	<input type="checkbox"/>
†Already trading. Tax certificates available immediately.				
I would like a 'BES for Beginners' Pack <input type="checkbox"/>				
I would like information on The Third Johnson Fry BES <input type="checkbox"/>				



JOHNSON FRY plc
Princes House, 36 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6DT.
Telephone: 01-439 0924

This advertisement is not an invitation to subscribe for shares.

[illegible]

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Applets: 2495 5m
Bids: 297 825%
Last week: 297 200%
allotted: 2100m
received: 84%
received: 100%

MONEY MARKETS

GOLD 10 20

EDON FINANCIAL FUTU

صلى الله عليه وسلم

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches or exceeds this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly or accumulator prize money stand. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Yellowhammer	Food/Pharm/Adv	
2	House of Lords	Drugs/Stores	
3	Conder Gp	Building/Roads	
4	Lancaster	Motors/Aircraft	
5	System Designers	Electricals	
6	Manders	Building/Roads	
7	Russell (A)	Industrials L-R	
8	Card (A) & Sons	Property	
9	Union	Bank/Discount	
10	KLP	Food/Pharm/Adv	
11	Granger	Property	
12	Perfection	Building/Roads	
13	Gleaves	Industrials E-K	
14	Torham House	Leisure	
15	Norson-BNA	Industrials L-R	
16	Johnson Cleaners	Industrials E-K	
17	Road Executive	Industrials L-R	
18	Devis & Newman	Industrials A-D	
19	Brown Shipley	Bank/Discount	
20	Fick Lovell	Food	
21	Tia Hodge	Industrials S-Z	
22	Norson	Industrials L-R	
23	Low & Buser	Industrials L-R	
24	Bos Mortgage	Bank/Discount	
25	Freethale	Food	
26	Brumgrove Inds	Industrials A-D	
27	Cont Statutory	Industrials A-D	
28	BM Gp	Industrials A-D	
29	Warner Howard	Industrials S-Z	
30	Bank Of Ireland	Bank/Discount	
31	Jessops	Motors/Aircraft	
32	Woodside	Oil/Gas	
33	Microson	Electricals	
34	Dunkle Hard	Industrials A-D	
35	Hamover Dams	Property	
36	Prognosis	Property	
37	Quick (HU)	Motors/Aircraft	
38	Dewhurst	Electricals	
39	Hawley (m)	Industrials E-K	
40	Lon & Edis Tel	Property	
41	Egerton Trust	Property	
42	Dale Elec	Electricals	
43	Baker Harris	Property	
44	Vibroplant	Building/Roads	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS	
High	Low
100/100	100/100

SHORTS (Under Five Years)	
High	Low
100/100	100/100

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS	
High	Low
100/100	100/100

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS	
High	Low
100/100	100/100

UNDATED	
High	Low
100/100	100/100

INDEX-LINKED	
High	Low
100/100	100/100

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP	
High	Low
100/100	100/100

ELECTRICALS	
High	Low
100/100	100/100

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS	
High	Low
100/100	100/100

CINEMAS, TV	
High	Low
100/100	100/100

DRAPERY, STORES	
High	Low
100/100	100/100

HOTELS, CATERERS	
High	Low
100/100	100/100

INDUSTRIALS A-D	
High	Low
100/100	100/100

S-Z	
High	Low
100/100	100/100

OILS, GAS	
High	Low
100/100	100/100

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS	
High	Low
100/100	100/100

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT	
High	Low
100/100	100/100

SHIPPING	
High	Low
100/100	100/100

SHOES, LEATHER	
High	Low
100/100	100/100

TEXTILES	
High	Low
100/100	100/100

TOBACCO	
High	Low
100/100	100/100

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Depressed end to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began January 25. Dealings ended yesterday. Settlement day February 8. Settlement day February 15.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price-earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 24)

100/100	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100

BREWERIES							
100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100

BUILDING, ROADS							
100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100

FINANCE, LAND							
100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100

FINANCIAL TRUSTS							
100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100

FOODS							
100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100

CINEMAS, TV							
100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100

DRAPERY, STORES							
100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100

HOTELS, CATERERS							
100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100	100/100

INDUSTRIALS A-D							
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S-Z							
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OILS, GAS							
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NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS							
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MOTORS, AIRCRAFT							
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SHIPPING							
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SHOES, LEATHER							
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TEXTILES							
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TOBACCO							
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OVERSEAS TRADERS							
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PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING							
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There are only 17 days left to get future tax free income for life!

If you are a higher rate income tax payer, or indeed if you believe that at some later stage you may be, the Inland Revenue has just made an announcement that could be of great importance to your future financial well being.

Namely, that after February 24 they are withdrawing tax privileges granted to certain types of life assurance contracts.

These contracts include 'maximum investment plans', either unit-linked or with profits, whereby you invest premiums for 10 years, or a lump sum, in order to get a totally tax free income later on.

Well, that income will no longer be tax free if you start your plan after February 24.

So for your own sake act right now to make certain you don't lose this important advantage. Send the coupon for detailed information without obligation or call us - one of Britain's leading independent financial advisers - right now. The clock is ticking...

Deadline date
February 24.

Talk to Tourey Law for independent financial advice.

Tourey Law & Co Ltd,
FREEPOST Windsor, Berks
SL4 1BT. Also in Edinburgh,
Leeds and Belfast.

Please urgently send me more information without obligation. I am not on an existing Tourey Law client.

Name _____

Address _____

FAMILY MONEY BRIEFING

Two-month wait for creditors

Investors caught up in the demise of share-dealer London & Norwich Investment Services must now wait two months before they can claim their money. The company's compulsory winding-up of the company in the High Court.

The Department of Trade will give notice of the meeting, probably to be held within two months. It is not yet clear how many private investors are affected by the collapse. Sixty creditors, mostly investors, have come forward so far and supported the petition from the Trade and Industry Secretary Lord Young for the winding-up. Debts outstanding total more than £1 million.

The Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association began looking into London & Norwich after it was acquired by Palmer Financial Corporation of Panama last June. Information was passed to the department.

Allegations against London & Norwich made in the High Court on Wednesday included misapplication of investors' money, breach of Fimbra rules on cold-calling and giving misleading advice. The Official Receiver is acting as provisional liquidator for London & Norwich. Creditors should contact James Pope, Official Receiver, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London EC4.

Better for pets

Dog-lovers who are sold a pup and end up with a miserable cur and a huge vet's bill might be lucky enough to discover that their dog breeder had puppy cancer. To mark the opening of Crufts on Thursday, Pet Plan is introducing its insurance for puppies, which spans the first six weeks after they have been sold.

Previously Pet Plan did not recognize that puppies might be sold for less than £150, but now it is bringing out a junior version insuring puppies sold for £100 at a cost of £4.95. The old policy started at £5.99 for puppies tagged at £150.

The standard Pet Plan for lowly mutts ranges from the basic £25.75-a-year plan for cover of £400 of vet's fees and £500,000 third party liability, to the champion plan at £51.25 a year covering not only £900 worth of fees, but also cancelled holidays, accidental death, loss of the dog and the cost of offering a reward as well.

Details: Pet Plan 331-327, Church Hill Road, London W4 (01-895 5281).

£1.2m sought

Ebury Wine Bars, parent of the Ebury Wine Bar in Belgrave, central London, and Draycotts in Chelsea, west London, is raising money through the Business Expansion Scheme. It wants to set up a chain of London wine bars and is seeking £1.2 million through the issue of five million shares at 24p each.

Some earlier attempts at expansion backfired, although the company says none of the disposals involved resulted in losses. The chairman Nigel Pullan says these experiences have convinced the company that it



Ebury's Belgrave wine bar should stick to central London for future expansion. The unaudited estimate for profit after overheads for the two wine bars in 1987 is £48,000 against a loss of £78,000 in 1986. That year's performance was affected by the cost of refurbishing Draycotts.

The issue is sponsored by Questor Capital Management.

Charity profits

The 11 fund management teams competing in the investment race to help finance a new children's cancer ward for St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, overcame the rigours of the market in the last two months of 1987 to make 15.5 per cent - £42,592 - on the £275,000 the groups shared equally at the start of the race on November 2. Save & Prosper led the field at the end of December.

9.9% fixed rate

Borrowers who believe that mortgage rates are bound to drift upwards following the rise in base rates this week can still find fixed-rate mortgages. Brokers Chase de Vere still have about £5 million worth of mortgage money fixed at 9.9 per cent for two years. The minimum loan is £50,000. Anyone who wants to get out of the mortgage before two years because rates have plummeted will have to pay a penalty.

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Nominal rate	Compounded return at tax rates	Min/max investment	Notice	Contact
BANKS					
Ordinary Dep A/c	3.00	3.02	2.28	1.65	1 min 0-7 day
Fixed Term Deposits	2.50	2.52	1.50	1.38	1 min 7 day
National Westminster	5.88	5.88	4.43	3.22	10,000-24,999 1 mth
" "	6.13	6.13	4.62	3.36	10,000-24,999 6 mth
" "	5.46	5.46	4.11	2.99	10,000-24,999 1 mth
" "	5.79	5.79	4.36	3.17	10,000-24,999 6 mth
BUILDING SOCIETIES					
Ordinary A/c	4.00	4.04	3.04	2.21	1 min
Britannia	6.15	6.15	4.63	3.37	250 min
Northern Rock	6.35	6.35	4.78	3.48	500 min
Cheltenham & Gloucester	6.75	6.75	5.08	3.70	5,000 min
Britannia & North Rock	7.05	7.05	5.31	3.86	10,000 min
Northern Rock	7.30	7.30	5.50	4.20	20,000 min
Nationwide Non-Resid	8.75	8.75	6.75	5.00	1 min

MONEY FUNDS					
Atken Hume Monthly Inc	5.83	5.99	4.51	3.28	1,000 min
Allied Arab HICA	6.11	6.29	4.74	3.45	3,000 min
Bank of Scotland	5.98	6.15	4.63	3.37	2,500 min
Barclays High Rate Dep	5.45	5.58	4.43	3.22	1,000 min
" "	5.88	6.01	4.53	3.29	10,000 min
Britannia High Interest	6.02	6.19	4.66	3.39	2,500 min
Citibank Money Mkt Plus	5.50	5.64	4.25	3.09	2,000 min
HFC Trust & Savings	6.75	6.92	5.21	3.79	5,000 min
Investment Company A/c	6.23	6.41	4.83	3.57	2,500 min
L & G High Int Deposit	6.00	6.18	4.59	3.34	1,000 min
Lloyds Investment A/c	6.40	6.40	4.82	3.51	5,000 min
Lloyds HICA	4.80	4.91	3.62	2.63	1,000 min
M&G HICA	6.02	6.19	4.66	3.39	2,500 min
Nat West HICA	6.00	6.09	4.59	3.49	2,000 min
" "	6.13	6.25	4.72	3.44	10,000 min
Nat West Special Reserve	6.25	6.40	4.82	3.51	10,000 min
Oppenheimer Money Mgmt	6.02	6.16	4.64	3.38	1,000 min
" "	6.11	6.25	4.71	3.43	10,000 min
Philips & Drew HICA	6.11	6.25	4.71	3.43	2,500 min
Provincial Trust Co A/c	6.58	6.79	5.12	3.72	1,000 min
Royal Bank of Scot Prem A/c	6.23	6.41	4.83	3.57	2,500 min
S & P Classic	5.80	5.97	4.49	3.27	500 min
Schroder Wagg	5.46	5.60	4.22	3.07	2,500 min
Tyndall Call	6.22	6.37	4.80	3.49	2,500 min
Tyndall 7-day	5.88	6.01	4.53	3.29	2,500 min
UDT 7-day	5.83	5.96	4.48	3.27	5,000 min
Western Trust	6.21	6.39	4.81	3.50	2,500 min

NATIONAL SAVINGS					
Ordinary A/c	5.00	5.12	3.85	2.80	1-10,000 8 day
Investment A/c	10.00	10.70	5.50	4.00	1 mth
Income Bond	10.50	10.77	5.78	4.20	2,000-100,000 3 mth
Deposit Bond	10.50	10.77	5.78	4.20	100-100,000 3 mth
3rd Year Cert	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	25-1,000 8 day
Yearly Plan	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	20-200/mth 14 day
General Extension Rate	6.51	6.51	6.51	6.51	
Retail Price Index: Dec	103.3	103.3	103.3	103.3	

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS					
General Portfolio	7.50	7.50	5.85	4.11	1,000 min 1 yr
General Portfolio	7.50	7.50	5.85	4.11	1,000 min 2 yrs
General Portfolio	7.50	7.50	5.85	4.11	1,000 min 3 yrs
Canterbury Life	7.75	7.75	5.84	4.25	1,000 min 4 yrs
Financial Assurance	6.25	6.25	6.22	4.52	2,000 min 5 yrs

LOCAL AUTHORITY TOWN HALL BONDS					
Northampton	6.58	6.58	4.96	3.81	500 min 1 yr
Kirkcaldy	6.75	6.75	5.07	3.70	500 min 2 yrs
Kirkcaldy	6.75	6.75	5.07	3.70	500 min 3 yrs
Swansea	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.71	500 min 5 yrs
Swansea	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.71	500 min 6 yrs
Swansea	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.71	500 min 7 yrs
Swansea	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.71	500 min 8 yrs
Vale of Glamorgan	5.75	5.75	4.33	3.15	500 min 9 yrs
Bristol	7.25	7.25	5.48	3.97	1,000 min 10 yrs
Bristol	7.25	7.25	5.48	3.97	1,000 min 10 yrs

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS					
Sterling	7.74	7.74	7.74	7.74	7 day 0481 26741
US Dollar	5.83	5.83	5.83	5.83	7 day 0481 26741
Yen	2.87	2.87	2.87	2.87	7 day 0481 26741
D Mark	2.14	2.14	2.14	2.14	7 day 0481 26741
French Franc	5.81	5.81	5.81	5.81	7 day 0481 26741
Swiss Franc	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	7 day 0481 26741

*Interest taxable, paid gross †Tax free ‡Higher returns for larger balances. † Major banks: Lloyds 2.8% & Midland 2.75%. ‡ Success chosen based on high street presence, higher rates can sometimes be obtained from smaller sources - contact Chase de Vere Moneyline 01-404 5786. ‡ 2.5 per cent for balances below £500, 1.5 per cent for balances above £500. ‡ Additional charges for withdrawals of £100 or less. ‡ Additional holdings up to £5,000 for investors re-investing proceeds of existing matured certificates. ‡ Charge for instant access.

KEY RATES

Retail Prices Index (Dec '86 to Dec '87)	+3.7%
Mortgage rate*	10.0%-10.5%
Bank base rate	9.00%
Bank prime overdraft rate*	12%-17%
Personal loan rate*	20.00% APR
Credit card rate*	23.1% APR



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FAMILY MONEY

Standards are set for bonus-cutting

Standard Life, one of Britain's leading life insurance and pensions companies, is shaving some of its bonus rates and says it believes competitors will have to follow.

The reductions affect terminal bonuses - those paid on maturity - on shorter-term life policies and the annual bonuses paid on the company's pension policies.

The adjustments follow the slump in share prices and reductions in interest rates, and Standard Life believes it is taking a lead in signalling the need for a more conservative approach to bonus payouts than there has been during the years of the bull market.

Standard Life's bonus reductions have come as something of a surprise because the company is the first of the giants to sound such a cautionary note on the outlook for investment returns.

later, are seen as a yardstick of strength. Companies are loath to reduce these so-called reversionary bonuses.

Trimming of the terminal rates on shorter contracts means that the value of a 10-year policy based on monthly premiums of £30 maturing after February 1 would be £8,958 this year against £9,024 last year.

Since terminal bonuses on longer-term contracts, where there is more time to smooth out investment performance, have been increased, the maturity value of a 25-year policy is now worth £54,072, against £52,608 last year.

Standard Life is also reducing bonuses on its pension schemes. The company's schemes are arranged on a

'The reductions are a sign of prudence' 'unitized' basis, where the fund is divided into units that increase at a guaranteed rate of 4 per cent.

reducing the annual rate to 12 per cent. On a self-employed contract with an annual premium of £500, maturing after February 1, the reduction would cut the value of a five-year policy from £5,117 in 1987 to £4,702 this year.

Iain Lumsden, Standard Life's actuarial general manager, says the move is not a sign of weakness or parsimony, but prudence. If action is not taken now investment performance will suffer later. "We think other companies are going to have to do the same if they are going to perform well in the future," he said.

Scottish Widows and Scottish Amicable, two other leading life offices, which are both due to declare their bonuses in the next few weeks, are sympathetic to the stance taken by Standard Life.

Alasdair Buchanan, assistant marketing manager at Scottish Widows, says life companies have been "running scared" of reducing reversionary bonuses. But they will have to come down, he says.

Maurice Paterson, general manager of sales and market-



ing at Scottish Amicable, says reversionary bonus rates on pension policies in particular have been too high for some time. Standard Life's decision "could well herald a general move".

Clive Scott-Hopkins, marketing director of brokers

Towry Law, takes a different view. "I feel it is a little disappointing that they can't hold rates on the strength of reserves." Returns should have to give only if there have been a number of bad years, not just one, he says.

Maria Scott

The time is right for a good claret

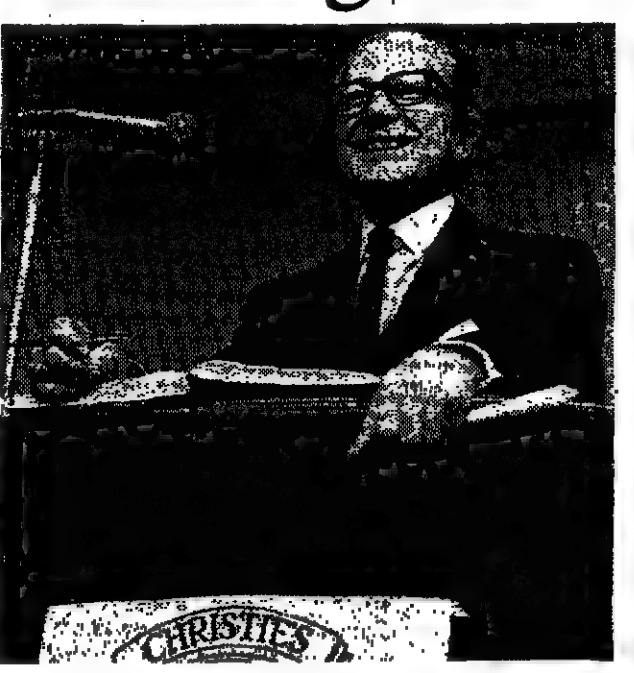
CONAL GREGORY, Master of Wine, assesses the wine investment market for 1988

The prices of claret and other vintage wines look set to climb ever upwards in spite of the gush of the wines expected to leak out of the maturing Business Expansion Schemes. But Michael Broadbent, head of Christie's wine department, doubts that much of the fine wine bought through the early BESs will come through the saleroom but expects it to go through brokers.

A high proportion of BES stock is in 1982 and 1983 claret. This may lead to a small fall in this sector, according to Stephen Mould, of Sotheby's.

In addition, the volume of wine from these two vintages, together with the 1985, being resold by American merchants to Bordeaux - and some to London - will depress the young claret sector. However, such is the quality of 1982 clarets that no serious collector can be without a balanced selection. Among leading estates other than first growths, consider Haut-Bailly from Graves, Grand-Larose in St Julien, Palmer in Margaux and both Cos d'Estournel and Montrose in St Estephe.

Mr Broadbent says the 1981s have "moved up in price at last" and recommends 1976s for current drinking.



Michael Broadbent "Most will be through brokers"

Both vintages were keenly bid for at a recent Christie's auction.

The 1978 clarets have been popular and will continue to increase in price. Mr Mould agrees and says that Château Lafite-Rothschild, which sold for between £440 and £500 per dozen bottles on Wednesday, shows that 1978s are undervalued.

The 1972 and 1974 clarets are "bargains", according to Christie's. Sotheby's says the 1970s have fallen back in price while the 1960s are quite strong. The outstanding 1961 are "marking time" on price. At the moment 1971 shows better value than 1970.

Dessert white Bordeaux is

now attracting keener interest after many years in the doldrums. The magnificent 1983 vintage has attracted North American investors but with the weak US dollar they are unlikely to be in evidence in the next few months. It should be possible to purchase a

Buoyant sector for investment is port

representative range from merchants to include Couz, Clemens and Rieussec.

The most buoyant sector of wine investment now is fine port. The 1983 is inexpensive at auction at around £120 per dozen bottles in bond, to

which £19.51 excise duty and common customs tariff needs to be added if you are storing it duty-paid. Sotheby's sold a good range on Wednesday and is planning its next sale on March 9. Phillips is holding a sale in Oxford on March 8.

The 1977 and 1975 ports are moving up in price and look cheap by comparison with the prices asked of the 1985 declaration. The 1975s do not have the staying power of either the 1960 or 1963, which are expected to show little increase this year.

Burgundy is a difficult market with stocks too thin to form definite patterns. Auctioneers are frequently asked to offer poor shippers and disappointing vintages, such as the 1977 for red Burgundy, but the reputable ones decline.

However, look for classic white Burgundy, especially Corton Charlemagne. Good shippers of style include Drouhin, Latour and Jadot.

The champagne market is

firm. Christie's had an impressive range of Pommery from the 1937 vintage onwards in early December, which sold well. This shows the benefit of keeping good vintages, particularly in magnum and even larger bottles. Mr Mould reports that Dom Perignon is firm at auction, particularly for the 1971 and 1976 vintages.

One relatively new feature is young Cognac, bottled in the UK two years after landing. It is appearing at auction for around £25 per bottle and is much more attractive than the prestige advertised bottles of the brandy houses. At the older end, vintages such as

1811 Cognac are in demand for £250-£300 per bottle, while 1914 Cognac for £70 is worth buying with a three-year to five-year investment view.

Christie's, the major wine saleroom, reports global wine sales of £7 million last year, excluding buyers' commission of 10 per cent or lots that were unsold. Wines "bought in" that failed to reach their reserve amounted to only 4 per cent on Bordeaux at Christie's main saleroom in King Street, near Pall Mall, and only 9 per cent generally for wine.

Sotheby's plans seven sales in London, three in Sussex and five overseas this year. Investors showed keen interest in its sale on January 20. Last year Sotheby's 17 wine sales realized more than £3.4 million, showing an increase of 11.6 per cent.

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FIMBRA

ATHLETICS

Glasgow's occasion stirs happy memories

By Pat Burcher
Athletics Correspondent

Britain's second indoor arena, not yet a year old, has its international opening today with a match between the United Kingdom and France and the prospect of the biggest crowd for the sport since fixtures at Wembley in the mid-sixties.

The most welcome innovation in British athletics for some time, a light blue and grey track housed in the former boxing arena, will have close to 5,000 people this afternoon after a sell-out provoked the installation of 300 extra seats for the match.

The withdrawal of Stephanie Caristan, with a pelvic injury from her anticipated match with Jon Ridgeon will hardly dampen the enthusiasm. For there is plenty more to whet the appetite, notably the British line-up of Linford Christie and Ernie Obeng against Bruno Marie-Rose in the 60 metres and Christie and Donovan Reid against Daniel Sanguma in the 200 metres.

Gilles Quenereb, an even more surprising World championship silver medal winner in the 200 metres than John Regis was with the bronze, has also withdrawn. But an additional prospect is the possibility of Christie and Marie-Rose, the indoor world record holder with 20.36sec, meeting in the 4 x 200 metres relay.

That race affords an opportunity for a wider public to view Willie Fraser, the most recent but overdue addition to the Scottish school of sprinting. The arcane rules of "amateur" athletics have kept Fraser, aged 31, out of mainstream sprinting domestically until last summer, and just this week internationally.

For Fraser was that most dreaded of miscreants—a "pro". He won what was the Fowdell Sprint, now relocated at Meadowbank in 1985, picking up £1,300 in the process. Fraser, now of Edinburgh A.C., won the same amount for taking the Pro 200 metres on New Year's Day, 1987. And in a week when fellow "amateur" Ben Johnson has picked up around £50,000 for three indoor races in Spain and Germany, Fraser has been forgiven his sins and reinstated by the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

Butch Reynolds may quicken a few pulses other than his own by trying to get under 46sec in the invitation 400 metres. But Sally Gunnell, breaking 52sec in the women's match race, will have infinitely more relevance to a British audience.

And the highlight for many people will be the pole vault, where spectators and pressmen are even more evident indoors. And in Ferenc Salbert, the former Hungarian, and Philippe Collet, the French have two of the finest exponents of this acrobatic discipline in the world. 5.70m and 5.50m respectively for Collet and Salbert in Stuttgart last Sunday not only presupposes annihilation of the British but also of the Kevin Hall record of 4.40m.

The European clubs' cross-country championships are also being held this weekend: the men's race, featuring Gateshead, Newport and Edinburgh Southern Harriers in Clusone, Italy today. But the women's race tomorrow in Cardiff, sponsored by British Gas, should be more interesting and provide Anna Toroy with a much-needed 15th individual win and, with only three to score this year, Cardiff AAC could win the team trophy as well.

Teddington are playing Reading tomorrow morning at Feltham where the points available are crucial to both sides as the competition intensifies for a place among the first five in the League in order to qualify for the first division of next year's national league. Teddington are fifth and Reading seventh but both clubs still have some way to go.

At left back for Reading is Keith McCallister from the Irish Under-21 squad who is joined by Davey with Nick Taylor in goal. Osborn, Adby and Locke make a formidable half-back trio and the forwards will be Doddington, Denchey, Osborn, Stannor and Williams.

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BOXING: WEIGHING UP SIBSON'S 'PUNCHER'S CHANCE' AGAINST AMERICA'S COUNTER-PUNCHER

Tate kings it in his castle

By Srikanth Sen
Boxing Correspondent

Ever since Henry Cooper knocked down Muhammad Ali the term "puncher's chance" found a special place in the hearts of British boxing followers. If a British boxer has no hope of outpointing an opponent, he can always be given "a puncher's chance," which really means getting lucky.

Colin Jones was given a puncher's chance against Donald Curry, as was Dennis Andries when he faced Thomas Hearns. Tom Collins did get lucky with Alex Blanchard, but then Collins will again only have a puncher's chance when he challenges Prince Charles Williams later this month, and come September, it will be "if Bruno catches Tyson".

And now the experts say the only hope of Tony Sibson, Britain's most experienced boxer, is to land a big left hook on Frank Tate, the international Boxing Federation's middleweight champion, when they meet at Bingley Hall, Stafford, tomorrow.

The experts believe that, after a 62-bout career which started on his seventeenth birthday almost 12 years ago, the British champion does not have enough motivation or strength left in him to control a 15-round contest against the unbeaten American.

The fire seems to have gone out of Sibson ever since that eighth-round defeat by Don Lee four years ago. Even Sibson's trainer, Ken Squires, believes that his charge has reached the point of retirement—and could quit even if he wins.

But it would be unwise to write off such an unpredictable boxer as Sibson. He can still jab and put combinations together with incredible speed—and hit, at least while he is still fresh in a bout. Should he

Tale of the tape

Sibson	Tate
29	23
11st 6lb	11st 6lb
6ft 6in	6ft 6in
17in	17in
44in	44in
47in	47in
12in	12in
12in	12in
11in	11in
31in	31in
12in	12in
12in	12in
9in	9in

Sibson: 55 wins, 6 draws, 1 loss. Tate: 21 wins, 0 draws, 0 losses.

catch Tate in the first four rounds the champion could be in trouble. But if, after five rounds, Tate is still on his toes, Sibson's problems could be starting.

But Squires claims to have it all worked out. "We have seen on video how Tate stopped Michael Olajide. Tate was moving to the right while Olajide was standing still trying to look like Michael Jackson. Well, even Charlie Chaplin can knock you out if you stand still. This time he believes Tate will move to the left to avoid Sibson's left hook. "We have worked out a couple of moves to shake him if he does that."

Tate is basically a counter-puncher who invites you to come in and then punishes you.

If Sibson's sleep was disturbed while Frank Warren, the promoter, was having his legal battles with the boxing board about the championship distance of 15 rounds, Tate was making himself at home in an Englishman's castle, Eccles Hall, near Stafford. The American camp were confident of victory. Jesse Reid, Tate's trainer, said: "Frank has trained for 30 rounds, so 12 or 15 won't matter at all. Frank is in a different class to Sibson and could one day be as great as Sugar Ray Leonard."

HOCKEY

St Albans deputy in the firing line

By Sydney Friskin

John Hurst, the England and Great Britain goalkeeper, is not available tomorrow for St Albans who are at home to Southgate in the premier division of the Pizza Express League. He is replaced by John Spicer who can expect a busy time.

Southgate's strongest side is available for the first of their four remaining matches with which they can overhaul Slough at the top of the table. After tomorrow's match they still have to play Guildford, Richmond and Reading.

St Albans have played only four of their nine matches so far, having drawn two and lost two for a total of one point on the grass pitch at Clarence Park but the game could well be swayed.

There is doubt about the fitness of Manning but St Albans still have a fairly strong side. Supporting Spicer in goal will be Botley, McClean, Ashby, Wisler, Lowen, Hayward, Port, Halliday, Ferns and Rowley.

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Sharpening up: Frank Tate, the IBF world middleweight champion, plans to make easy meat of Tony Sibson on a diet of British bargains. Tate has been confined to a strict diet of fish, fish and more fish to keep his weight down as he prepares for tomorrow's defence at Stafford.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

3.0 United States

Premier division

First division

Second division

Third division

Fourth division

Fifth division

Sixth division

Seventh division

Eighth division

Ninth division

Tenth division

Eleventh division

Twelfth division

Thirteenth division

Fourteenth division

Fifteenth division

Sixteenth division

Seventeenth division

Eighteenth division

Nineteenth division

Twentieth division

Twenty-first division

Twenty-second division

Twenty-third division

Twenty-fourth division

Twenty-fifth division

Twenty-sixth division

Twenty-seventh division

Twenty-eighth division

Twenty-ninth division

Thirtieth division

Thirty-first division

Thirty-second division

Thirty-third division

Thirty-fourth division

Thirty-fifth division

Thirty-sixth division

Thirty-seventh division

Thirty-eighth division

Thirty-ninth division

Fortieth division

Forty-first division

Forty-second division

Forty-third division

Forty-fourth division

Forty-fifth division

Forty-sixth division

Forty-seventh division

Forty-eighth division

Forty-ninth division

Fiftieth division

Fifty-first division

Fifty-second division

Fifty-third division

Fifty-fourth division

Fifty-fifth division

Fifty-sixth division

Fifty-seventh division

Fifty-eighth division

Fifty-ninth division

Sixtieth division

Sixty-first division

Sixty-second division

Sixty-third division

Sixty-fourth division

Sixty-fifth division

BOWLS

Final for England pair but triple face witch doctor

From David Rhys Jones, Auckland, New Zealand

England, in the pairs, and Scotland, in the triples, qualified to meet the host country, New Zealand, in today's BNZ (Bank of New Zealand) World finals here, though, as far as the British teams are concerned, yesterday's events were not only *apres le deluge*, but also a case of after the Lord Mayor's Show.

Though Thursday's torrential rain seemed to have little effect on the behaviour of the playing surface, teams who had ruled the roost suddenly found themselves relegated to a lower position in the pecking order after some astonishing reverses.

In the pairs, for example, Robert Weale and Will Thomas of Wales lost their first two games—to Scotland, 19-20, and New Zealand, 15-16, before snatching victory, 20-17, against Australia, while Rodney McCutcheon and John McLoughlin of Ireland narrowly lost their unbeaten record to New Zealand, 19-18.

Scotland's Grant Knox and George Adrain, put paid to Welsh chances of winning the gold medal before themselves falling to ignominious defeat to Brian Boze and Malcolm Stewart of Papua New Guinea, 16-27.

In the triples, England's John Ozaway, Wynne Richards and John Bell fell, 16-21, to Australia, and must now meet Papua New Guinea, 16-21, in a consolation match. The Nancie whom they call the witch doctor, for the bronze medal.

In Section B, Scotland's Willie Paul, Willie Wood, and Alex McIntosh lost unexpectedly to New Zealand, 14-23, but still scraped into today's final by beating a Jersey triplet, 17-14.

Bryant and Alcock were the only British combination to survive the day unscathed.

SELECTED RESULTS: Women's Pairs

Section A: G. Knox and G. Adrain (Scotland) 19-20 W. Weale and W. Thomas (Wales) 15-16 R. Weale and W. Thomas (Wales) 20-17 A. Boze and M. Stewart (Papua New Guinea) 16-27

Section B: W. Paul, W. Wood, and A. McIntosh (Scotland) 14-23 N. Z. 17-14

Section C: J. Ozaway, W. Richards, and J. Bell (England) 16-21 A. 16-21

Section D: J. Ozaway, W. Richards, and J. Bell (England) 16-21 A. 16-21

Section E: J. Ozaway, W. Richards, and J. Bell (England) 16-21 A. 16-21

Section F: J. Ozaway, W. Richards, and J. Bell (England) 16-21 A. 16-21

Section G: J. Ozaway, W. Richards, and J. Bell (England) 16-21 A. 16-21

Section H: J. Ozaway, W. Richards, and J. Bell (England) 16-21 A. 16-21

Section I: J. Ozaway, W. Richards, and J. Bell (England) 16-21 A. 16-21

Section J: J. Ozaway, W. Richards, and J. Bell (England) 16-21 A. 16-21

Section K: J. Ozaway, W. Richards, and J. Bell (England) 16-21 A. 16-21

Section L: J. Ozaway, W. Richards, and J. Bell (England) 16-21 A. 16-21

Section M: J. Ozaway, W. Richards, and J. Bell (England) 16-21 A. 16-21

Section N: J. Ozaway, W. Richards, and J. Bell (England) 16-21 A. 16-21

Section O: J. Ozaway, W. Richards, and J. Bell (England) 16-21 A. 16-21

Section P: J. Ozaway, W. Richards, and J. Bell (England) 16-21 A. 16-21

Section Q: J. Ozaway, W. Richards, and J. Bell (England) 16-21 A. 16-21

Section R: J. Ozaway, W. Richards, and J. Bell (England) 16-21 A. 16-21

Section S: J. Ozaway, W. Richards, and J. Bell (England) 16-21 A. 16-21

Section T: J. Ozaway, W. Richards, and J. Bell (England) 16-21 A. 16-21

Section U: J. Ozaway, W. Richards, and J. Bell (England) 16-21 A. 16-21

Section V: J. Ozaway, W. Richards, and J. Bell (England) 16-21 A. 16-21

Section W: J. Ozaway, W. Richards, and J. Bell (England) 16-21 A. 16-21

Section X: J. Ozaway, W. Richards, and J. Bell (England) 16-21 A. 16-21

Section Y: J. Ozaway, W. Richards, and J. Bell (England) 16-21 A. 16-21

Section Z: J. Ozaway, W. Richards, and J. Bell (England) 16-21 A. 16-21

Section AA: J. Ozaway, W. Richards, and J. Bell (England) 16-21 A. 16-21

Section AB: J. Ozaway, W. Richards, and J. Bell (England) 16-21 A. 16-21

Section AC: J. Ozaway, W. Richards, and J. Bell (England) 16-21 A. 16-21

Section AD: J. Ozaway, W. Richards, and J. Bell (England) 16-21 A. 16-21

Section AE: J. Ozaway, W. Richards, and J. Bell (England) 16-21 A. 16-21

Section AF: J. Ozaway, W. Richards, and J. Bell (England) 16-21 A. 16-21

Section AG: J. Ozaway, W. Richards, and J. Bell (England) 16-21 A. 16-21

Section AH: J. Ozaway, W. Richards, and J. Bell (England) 16-21 A.

Lyphento can strengthen prospects for the Triumph

Pitman the loser as Ramsden switches Testing conditions to suit tough Big Brown Bear

[illegible]

By Clive White

With the day-dreaming of an FA Cup victory over Liverpool dashed, Villa can now get on with the reality of life at the top of the second division. Taylor has drafted his two new signings, Platt, bought from Crew Alexandra for £200,000, and Williams, a relative £10,000 snip from Gosport, into his squad. They have been bought to hot up the competition in attack.

On the road to Wembley? Osborne selects an alternative route to the famous stadium with Braintree

By Paul Newman

"Some players say they can't understand how I can enjoy playing at this level, but I still love it. I'm basically football mad and I want to go on playing for as long as I can. It doesn't worry me about the standard I'm playing to, so long as I enjoy it."

By Ian Stafford

Leading article, page 9

By George Ace

passed at the recent coaching session at Lilleshall and I had no hesitation in calling them up."

MAJ: A McKnight (Celtic), G Dundas (Fife), G Fleming (Nottingham Forest), J Montgomery (Luton), A Rogan (Celtic), J Cunningham (Sheffield Wednesday), J McClelland (Watford), A McDonald (Green's Park Rangers), B McHale (Rushbury), N Whiteside (Manchester City), D Campbell (Charlton), P Ramsey (Barnsley), K Wilson (Chelsea), J Quinn (Barnsley).

By David Miller

Elizpatrick, an energetic chairman who is trying to haul British skiing out of its Twenties image, has been helped by the enthusiastic sponsorship of

old between now and September and hope to raise between 20,000 and £50,000 for the appeal.

The Norwegian maintains that he struck a deal with Calvi to buy the team for \$800 Soviet-made steroids to Krosby.

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

Two knee operations took Scanlon out of the game for most of 1985. "When you take out seven months off," he said yesterday, "the game carries on the younger kids get better, the standard improves. It takes a long time to catch up. I'm playing better tennis than I ever did, but it's all relative." Contradicting himself, Scanlon added: "I may never get to be as good as I was, but I still enjoy

Scanlon came to London to train up the middle choppers in

SNOW REPORTS

Excellent piste skiing
the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain. L refers to lower slopes and U to upper, and art to artificial.

RESULTS: Women: 200 metres breaststroke: 1, Xiaomin Huang (China), 2-26.60; 2, A. Raz (EG), 2-27.56; 3, S. S. Gerassih (EG), 2-28.00.

CYCLING

MARKS: Six-day races: First-day headlines: 1. D Mark (Aus) and A Doyle (GB), 27pts; 2. P Jossier and P Binello (Fr), 26; 3. S Tourne and E De Wilde (Bel), 16; 4. B Vallet and L Jorda (Fr), 8; 5. D Thurau and J Schappelpoel, at one lap, 13.

BRIGANT, Australia: World championships: Team problems: 1. Aus, 11,777pts; 2. USA, 11,000; United States, 11,526; 3. Britain, 11,295; France, 10,953; 5. Brazil, 10,533; 6. Japan, 10,532. Individual problems: 1-4. J Bondy (GB), R Hanev (Can), L Todor (US), S Poynter (GB), 3,000; 5. R Walbee (Fr), 2,982; 6. D Zeng (WGC), 2,975.

6-4; P Cane of A Mandorli, 7-5, 8-3, 9-1
 West Germany lead Brazil, 2-0 (C
 men names first: B Becker bt C Motte,
 6-0; C-U Steeb bt L Matter, 6-1, 6-2,
 6-2; Czechoslovakia lead Paraguay,
 Czechoslovak names first: P Korda bt
 9-2, 9-2, 6-1, 8-2; M MacG bt
 8-2, 8-2, 6-2, 6-2. Austria, Detmen
 Dark lead Spain, 1-0 (Danish names first
 6-4, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2. American

Infighting

continues

ish sport took another turn yesterday with Colin Mornihan, served since 1980. I understand that he is the latest victim of the intruiging which has raged

